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LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

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The Play's The Thing:

LIZZIE BORDEN "TESTIFIES" IN FALL RIVER

by Eric Stedman

(Editor's note: Mr. Stedman is a young, talented Playwright, Producer and Director who hails from my part of the world. His Play *The Testimony of Lizzie Borden* had a successful run in Pennsylvania prior to taking it on the road to Fall River. It appears as though his recent intensive exposure to the Borden hatchet-murders has left a deep impression ...)

Your editor has asked me to make some comments about the experience of bringing *The Testimony of Lizzie Borden* to Fall River last September. I never imagined the bizarre events that were to follow from my decision to put together a drama about the Bordens. Here are some of the things that I've learned:

LIVING AT 92 SECOND STREET WOULD MAKE ANYONE WANT TO KILL SOMEBODY

My tech director and I were kindly allowed to enter No. 92 to measure the sitting room before the production. After the show, our cast was invited for breakfast (no one drank any of the milk, by the way) and given a tour by Ron Evans (thanks again!), and I had a chance to look at the scene of the crime. What I saw was a Fung Choi expert's nightmare -- a lower floor so cluttered with doorways that no one can conveniently pass through anywhere without forcing someone else to move out of the way, except in the front entry hall and the apparently rarely-used parlor. What poetic justice it was that



The *Testimony of Lizzie Borden* cast and building co-owner Ron Evans on the steps at 92 Second Street.

Photograph reproduced courtesy of Jeannine H. Bertolet.

Andrew Borden was murdered on the sofa! When I visited, there was only a cabinet-style TV where the sofa had once been, but it was still a real obstacle in the only area that could possibly have served as a common hallway on the whole lower floor (but the sofa would have blocked the windows if it were put against the other wall, now, wouldn't it!?). We discovered that blocking scenes on our set, which exactly duplicated the sitting room down to the moldings on the doors, presented constant problems when trying to give characters entrances and exits. At first I tried to orchestrate matters by scheduling things (Lizzie, you go in first, then Bridget exit. No, no. Let Lizzie go all the way past the sofa so you don't run into her. That's right. Now go on with the lines). But I eventually gave up and just allowed characters to bump into each other or back

each other up during the show. This kind of stuff was annoying in rehearsal and I'm sure was much worse in real life (several times the question of who would retreat for whom arose at crucial points when Lizzie and Andrew would meet at the kitchen door). By the way, the front staircase, with narrow steps that seem taller than they are wide, and a uselessly low wooden handrail, are just plain treacherous. The cellar is creepy as all get-out. This house should have been indicted as an accessory to murder!

ANDREW BORDEN PROBABLY TOOK HIS FIRST WHACK STANDING UP, FACING HIS KILLER

Andrew's murder in *The Testimony of Lizzie Borden* is performed in full view of the audience. I wanted to draw upon

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THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

A Different Menu

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

December 1, 1995

Mr. Maynard F. Bertolet
Lizzie Borden Quarterly
2 Blancyd Road
Merion Station, PA 19066-1802

(Editor's note: Mr. Brown is the author of "Lizzie Borden: The Legend, The Truth, The Final Chapter." Rutledge Hill Press, 1991. "The Legend" was previously reviewed in the LBQ.)

Dear Mr. Bertolet:

..... After a full half-dozen court mandated rewrites, my follow-up book (*The Trial of Billy Borden*) has, apparently, and with fervid hope, cleared all the questioned ownership hurdles. If the crick don't rise again too soon, it should be on your dealer's shelves next August, approximately on the 4th. Thinking people will love it

All best wishes,

Arnold R. Brown

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

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Miss Lizbeth Borden's Editor Speaks

Well, here we are, another new year, another *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* and a partridge in that pear tree.

Due to ever rising costs, it has become necessary to increase our subscription rates. The annual rate has been slightly raised to \$10.00 while the two-year price is now \$16.00. This is still the greatest bargain yet for a special interest publication.

Regarding subscription expiration dates. Due to possible late publication problems, we have come to the conclusion that relying upon expiration dates might possibly be grossly unfair. Consequently, with this issue, we have converted to a *number of issues* status. Every one year renewal or new subscriber will be guaranteed four issues. Eight issues will be allotted for two year subscribers. The November, 1995 issue will be considered a gratis issue, in honor of your patience.

Please check your mailing label for the number of issues remaining on your subscription. If there is any discrepancy, just let me know. Also, it is important to keep a clean address file. If there are any changes to make, please send them on to me.

Do you have some new angle or additional thoughts on any aspect of the Borden hatchet-murders? Don't hesitate! Send your thoughts to me and I will respond within ten days. Your thoughts can very well be of interest to us all.

Maynard F. Bertolet
Editor

The Publisher's Statement

The "new" *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* went out in late November. There had been quite a few months between that issue and the previous one. During that time, I sent all subscribers a letter thanking you for your patience and informing you that the *LBQ* was undergoing some changes, especially the appointment of a new editor. That transition is now complete, and as you can see in Volume II, Number 6 and the present issue, we are back in business. Let me say a few things about the new *LBQ*.

The new editor is Maynard F. Bertolet. Maynard is a kind and remarkable man well known to music lovers in the Philadelphia area for his work in providing vocal scholarship grants and various philanthropic organizations. He is the conservator of the Bertolet Archives, one of the finest collections of recorded music, movies and historical recordings in the world. I have seen only a part of this important collection, and that is awesome. But Maynard is not just a collector and connoisseur, he is a true Lizzie Borden aficionado. (I don't like the term buff, especially since the time I was referred to as a "buff's buff" on NPR.) He is also a man whose success in life underlines his commitment to excellence and efficiency.

Jeannine H. Bertolet, Maynard's charming wife, is our new copy editor. She too is devoted to the scholarship of the Borden legend. Our publication could not be in better hands.

The *LBQ* is well into its third year of publication, and I foresee many more years for this magazine. The Borden case is a major American Legend. It reaches into the depths of human motive and action as do the stories of ancient Greek and Shakespearian tragedy. It has been treated in every major art form from opera and ballet to poetry, novels, movies, TV and folk songs.

Again, I thank you for your patience and loyalty. Now stay with us as we continue to explore one of the greatest mysteries in our American heritage.

Jules R. Ryckebusch
Publisher

"PRINCESS MAPLECROFT"



PAPA! LOOK AT THE CLEVER
TRICK I LEARNED FROM THE
JUGGLER BEGGING ON FERRY
STREET!

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THE BORDEN CASE AND THE IRRELEVANCE OF REASON

by Howard Brody

(Editor's note: Dr. Brody is a recognized Borden scholar and has authored extensive research focused on Officer Medley and other significant points. He is no stranger to the pages of the LBQ. His latest offering poses a very interesting psychological question)

When I attended the Centennial Conference on the Borden case at Bristol Community College, I was exposed for the first time to an attitude which I found totally foreign to my way of thinking about mystery and crime. I encountered people who made it quite clear that they hoped the Borden case would never be solved and that they would experience great disappointment if someone unearthed new facts, or a new explanation, which seemed to point with certainty to the true culprit and modus operandi.

Now that I have participated in that conference, have been reading the 'Quarterly' since its inception and have engaged in debate with other Borden buffs, I begin to realize that these people are, in their own way, on to something important.

I came to the Borden case via random reading as a teenager, which was later filtered through training in science and medicine and a fondness for a particular sort of mystery story. My favorite mystery authors are Arthur Conan Doyle and R. Austin Freeman, who created supposedly scientific detectives (the latter more successfully than the former) and who appeared to be the apostles of logic and reason in the solution of crime.

When I began to read seriously about the Borden case some 10-15 years ago, I took for granted that if anything would suffice to solve the mystery, it would be the application of scientific and logical methods of thought. True, it might well be (as Colin Wilson wrote) that the raw material for a scientific inquiry simply was not there, due to the lack of forensic expertise among those responsible for the initial investigation of the crime scene. In that case, no author today could hope to solve the mystery. But one could at least dispassionately sift the evidence, separate fact from conjecture, and indicate what we do and do not know about what happened on August 4, 1892. (For instance, even if we cannot decide finally who committed the murders and why, we might at least be able to agree on "the facts" of whether the cellar door was locked at the time, or whether Officer Medley really saw undisturbed dust in the barn loft.)

The more I grapple with the case, the more I begin to think that that entire approach misses an important point. The point was raised at the Bristol Community College conference by William Masterson, himself a scientist, who tried to calculate mathematically the probabilities for the three mutually exclusive explanations for the murders: Lizzie did it; Bridget did it; somebody else did it. Masterson calculated the probabilities of these explanations, based on the evidence now at hand, as respectively 0.1, 0.01, and 0.001. He then pointed out the

obvious: these numbers should add up to 1, and they don't. He concluded that the known evidence in the Borden case violates the laws of probability.

(Masterson's mathematical exercise initially lends plausibility to the hypothesis once suggested sardonically by the editors of the Fall River 'Globe' -- that no one murdered Andrew and Abby Borden, and they died as a result of the heat. Unfortunately, Masterson has also been instrumental in showing that it wasn't really very hot on that day in Fall River; so that theory falls through also.)

I would restate Masterson's basic point as follows: "Whatever really happened on the morning of August 4 must have been something highly improbable; therefore, any effort to arrive at what happened by an appeal to what seems reasonable or logical is bound to fail." I base this statement on the fact that numerous telling objections have been raised, and continue to be raised, to the various "reasonable" theories of the crime proposed by those who have written books and articles about the Borden case. Lately, a Borden student in Europe did me the honor of sending me a manuscript he had written in which he proposes a new theory of the crime. I read it with interest and was about to write him back, saying that



while fascinated, I found his theory ultimately implausible. But then I had to say to myself, "How can implausibility serve as an objection to any Borden theory? Whatever really did happen must have been highly implausible."

Sherlock Holmes was fond of saying, "Once you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." Sherlock Holmes would never have gotten very far with the Borden case -- unless, perhaps, he had happened to be in Fall River on August 4 (and maybe if, for good measure, the criminal had smoked a cigar, on the ash of which Holmes had previously written a monograph). First, we lack the definite evidence needed to say what is impossible and what appears impossible but is actually only extremely improbable. Second, we are left not with one, but with multiple improbables, and without any means to logically choose one over the others.

In suggesting, more or less, that we abandon reason in talking about the Borden case, am I merely admitting fatigue or senescence and giving up too quickly on the scientific and logical methods? I might be, but I can see only one circumstance that would support that conclusion. That is that in analyzing the case we are all (or most) of us in the grip of a false key assumption;

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BORDEN 1893/SIMPSON 1995 CASE SIMILARITIES

by Margaret Judge Grenier

(Editor's note: This is the second of three articles referencing similarities between the Borden and Simpson murder cases. Ms. Grenier offers a well thought-out paper on the subject. Her approach is completely dissimilar to the other two and some very interesting parallels and questions are brought into sharp focus.)

Commonalities link the Borden murders, the crime of the 19th century, and the Brown-Simpson/Goldman murders, dubbed the crime of the 20th century. One of these is the strong polarity of feelings about the guilt or innocence surrounding the accused. Social belief systems deny the possible involvement of the accused: Lizzie Borden, upper middle class and female; O.J. Simpson, the smiling famous celebrity who electronically visited homes throughout the entire world.

Borden case devotees still argue the guilt or innocence of Lizzie Borden despite the fact that she was acquitted by a jury. Will people still question the guilt or innocence of O.J. Simpson, one hundred years from now?

Media coverage created speculation and interest in the Borden case. Today, books and articles are still being written about the locked door murders, using publications of the time for research. The Borden case provides an historical frozen section of life in that household and those of the late 1800's.

Media coverage was used as visual testimony in the Simpson case to bolster or refute testimony. Many books and articles presently being written are freezing in time the life style of the moneyed in the late 1900's, focusing on issues such as divorce, remarriage, dual families, beauty and possessions.

In both cases, the police are depicted as bungling and inept. In the Borden case, police were accused of settling for the obvious and not looking beyond the alleged perpetrator, Lizzie Borden. The handling of evidence and search techniques was ridiculed. Many blamed lack of education, lack of discipline and politics for the arrest and victimization of the accused.

Police in the Simpson case are accused of not investigating all possible enquiries for a suspect other than O.J. Simpson. They are maligned for planting evidence to prove their case against the accused. Work done by the police is ridiculed despite educational qualifications, implying evil intent and incompetence. Many see the accused as the victim.

Are belief systems different today? Electronic split-second communication allows twentieth-century denizens immediate access to happenings around the world, giving a sense of presence anywhere in the world to viewers and listeners. We, the public, have been present at the crime scene and during the trial of O.J. Simpson. The Borden trial was covered by newspaper coverage, hastened by wireless reports. No technology was available to offer visual presence at that crime scene or that trial in order to allow the public to reach their own conclusions. Yet, belief systems still sway the viewer's perception, as countless

interviews indicate.

Juries in both cases were, and are, made up of people who have individual belief systems. The role of these belief systems influenced the jurors in 1995 as they did more than one hundred years ago. This is one of the reasons why so much time is spent in character or demeanor testimony. Scientific evidence and logic pale beside belief systems.

In 1892, two people were inside a locked house. Other than the victims, only one of the two people had a motive and gained by the death of Mr. and Mrs. Borden. Police made an arrest consistent with motive, access and presence.

In 1994, two children were sleeping in an open house while a mother and her friend were violently murdered outside. Police made an arrest based on evidence found at the home of the children's father. The case is based upon motive, access and presence.



The Borden hatchet-murder trial jury, c. 1892.

Photograph reproduced with permission of the Fall River Historical Society.

These crimes parallel one another in many ways. Let's consider how:

1. Both included two bodies, one female, one male.
Borden case: The relationships to the accused were stepmother and father.
Simpson case: The relationships to the accused are an ex-wife and a male friend.
2. Both cases depend upon a timetable of outside witnesses for placing the time of murder.
Borden case: Mr. Borden was seen trying unsuccessfully to enter the locked front door of his house by a neighbor. The maid spoke with him after he entered the house.

(Continued on Page 15.)

THE HANDLELESS HATCHET

by Neilson Caplain

It has generally been accepted that the handleless hatchet, the one on display at the Historical Society, is the implement that did in Andrew and Abby Borden. This was believed by several authorities, including Edmund Pearson, Victoria Lincoln, and Robert Sullivan.

So much credence has been placed on this premise that it has even been suggested to disinter the bones at the Oak Grove Cemetery so that the handleless hatchet could again be compared with the wounds on the skulls of the unfortunate couple.

However, at the trial in 1893, the prosecution never claimed the handleless hatchet was the murder weapon, as the following makes abundantly clear.

In his closing statement District Attorney Knowlton conceded, "We do not say that was the hatchet. It may have been." His colleague, Mr. Moody, said, "The government does not insist that these homicides were committed by the handleless hatchet." Judge Dewey, in his charge to the jury said, "It is not claimed by the government but what that killing might have been done with some other instrument." John Fleet, second policeman in command, testified, "I don't think it was used for the purpose of killing."

Three doctors, forensic experts from Boston, spoke for the prosecution. Not one was able to identify the handleless hatchet as the murder weapon. Indeed, Dr. Wood's testimony was quite conclusive that it was not. The most the doctors could say was that this hatchet *might* have been the one.

Aside from the trial testimony, there is other evidence and opinion disproving the use of the handleless hatchet. Edward D. Radin, the writer, and also a claimed forensic expert, pointed out that it would be impossible to remove all trace of blood, even with modern methods, from a pitted, dirt-encrusted tool such as the handleless hatchet.¹ No trace of blood was detected, therefore the handleless hatchet could not have been the murder implement.

Agnes de Mille wrote, "No murder weapon was proved; the handleless hatchet was only suspected." By the way, Miss de Mille mistakenly described the blade as sharp and showing no trace of rust. She examined the hatchet first hand.²

Arnold Brown claims that an illegitimate son was the guilty assailant.³ If his explanation is accepted, the handleless hatchet must be ruled out as the implement used.

Even Edmund Pearson, that most prolific writer on the Borden case and one who was convinced of Lizzie's guilt, finally had to admit, "The State was never able to produce any weapon that could be established as the one used by the murderer."⁴

In 1913, Emma defended her sister in a newspaper interview in which she said, "The authorities never found the axe or the implement or whatever it was that figured in the killing."

Finally, Mr. Knowlton claimed that the "handle was broken not by accident, but by design." The inference was that Lizzie did it. However, the wood for such a handle is selected for its

particular strength to withstand heavy impact. *Such wood could not be snapped in half very easily, much less by a woman.* I find this a telling point, not mentioned in any of the literature.

From all of the above it must be concluded that the handleless hatchet was not the implement of death. Indeed, it was the lack of positive identification of such an implement, just as much as the absence of blood on Lizzie's clothing, that contributed to her acquittal.

If the use of the handleless hatchet is disproved, are there other possibilities? Recently, another hatchet has been suggested as the murder weapon. This is explained in two books published in 1992.⁵ Briefly, the first book relates the discovery of gilt



The Handleless Hatchet
On display at the Fall River Historical Society

Photograph reproduced with permission of the Fall River Historical society.

paper, such as is used to protect the edge of new hatchets, in the skull of Abby Borden.

(See the letter by Dr. Cheever in the book of the Knowlton Papers just published by the Historical Society.) The second book details the finding of just such a hatchet on premises near the back of the Borden house.

That such a new hatchet was the murder weapon was also alleged by Lizzie's attorneys. During the trial Attorney Adams went to a nearby hardware store and bought a new hatchet which was found to fit perfectly into the wounds on Andrew Borden's skull, "so that it became clear to us that an ordinary new style of hatchet was used by the murderer."⁶ It was decided not to present this evidence at the trial.

Source References

- ¹ *Lizzie Borden, The Untold Story* by Edward D. Radin
Page 208 etc.
- ² *Lizzie Borden, A Dance of Death* by Agnes de Mille
Pages 69 through 111
- ³ *Lizzie Borden, The Final Chapter* by Arnold R. Brown
- ⁴ *Five Murders* by Edmund Pearson
Page 273
- ⁵ *Forty Whacks* by David Kent and
The Mysterious Axe by Robert A. Flynn
- ⁶ *History of Fall River* by Arthur S. Phillips
Facsimile 3, Page 106

AN ARMCHAIR SOLUTION TO THE BORDEN MYSTERY

By Fritz Adilz

(Editor's note: This is the fourth installment of Fritz's monumental effort in presenting his theory of the long-sought solution. Assuming space availability, the final segment will be published in the April, 1996 edition. Along with the final episode will be at least one review of the entire document.)

THE CASE AGAINST EMMA BORDEN

When the murders occurred Emma had been away from home for exactly two weeks, visiting friends in Fairhaven. In making this visit, was she acting according to a plan to which she had consented or did Lizzie and her uncle just take the opportunity to stage the murders while she was away?

1. If Emma was not involved, one would perhaps have expected the murders to be carried out as soon as possible after her leaving for Fairhaven. The risk that she would come back would be greater the longer the plotters waited, and two weeks seems a long wait. On the other hand, maybe Lizzie knew that her sister planned to stay for at least a month. So I do not think these two weeks offer any clue regarding Emma's involvement or not.

2. It is a fact that Emma did everything in her power to help her sister during the inquest and the trial. So, for example, she said that Lizzie's feelings towards her stepmother were more cordial than her own^(C112) and she said she thought her stepmother was in the habit of destroying her letters, thus making it likely that she had burned the note.^(C113) And at the trial she apparently would have testified that she and her sister always burned their old dresses, but all questions bearing upon this were excluded.^(E291:1) She did testify, however, that Lizzie had exclaimed: "Oh, why did you let me do it?", when Alice Russell told her that the burning of the dress was the worst thing she could have done.^(E291:2) But Emma denied that Miss Russell also said to Lizzie that she would not have advised her to burn the dress where people could see it.^(E293:1) On the stand Emma denied the truth "sentence by sentence" of Matron Reagan's allegation about the quarrel between herself and her sister.^(E293:2) And so on.

Now the question is: If Emma was not involved, must not

she have suspected that Lizzie had, or at least could have had, a hand in the murders? The Borden family formed a very closely-knit society and it is difficult, if not impossible, for an outsider to know for sure what went on inside the walls of that house. But a member of the family would, of course, have known. And Emma would have known what motive her sister could have had to wish her father and stepmother dead. And under such circumstances, would she have resorted to outright lies - as she did - to help her sister? Must not her loyalty to her murdered father have prevented that? One would think so, but then again, maybe not.

In the interview she gave Mr. Maguire of the Boston Sunday Post in 1913, she touches upon this matter herself:^(S214-215) "Perhaps people wondered why I stood so staunchly by Lizzie during the trial. I'll tell them why. Aside from my feelings as a

sister, it was because I constantly had in mind our dear mother". She had made a promise to her mother on her deathbed, that she would always watch over "baby Lizzie". Emma concludes: "I want to feel that when Mother and I meet in the hereafter, she will tell me that I was faithful to her trust" So I don't think that any conclusion can be drawn from Emma's attitude at the trial as to her own guilt or innocence.

3. When the trial was over Emma and Lizzie bought a house in French Street, where they lived together for thirteen years. If Emma was innocent but had suspected Lizzie to have had a hand in the murders, she would not have moved in with her. But no conclusion can be drawn. Emma could have been honest when she

declared her belief in her sister's innocence. Emma said to Mr. Maguire that Lizzie repeatedly assured her of her innocence during the conversations they had in Maplecroft and her statement here has the ring of truth.^(S214)

4. But another thing that Mr. Maguire reports from this interview gives the opposite impression in my view. Spiering says:^(S215) "As Edwin Maguire watched, Emma's voice became a low moan. And then a howl. Convulsively, she began to sob. Clutching the arm of the low rocking chair she abruptly stood up. She began pacing to and fro, attempting to control herself by pressing a black-bordered handkerchief against her lips."

This is no ordinary reaction of despondency. No, this is a

(Continued on next page)



Alleged to be Emma Borden

Photograph reproduced with permission of the Fall River Historical Society.

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sign of extreme agony bursting through in front of a stranger. The sorrow the murders brought cannot explain this. Terrible as they were, they were more than twenty years past. This is the expression of a since long-tormented conscience and is in every respect consistent with the secluded life Emma chose to lead, where churchgoing seems to have been her only outing. The most natural explanation of all this is that she had known about and consented to the murders.

Conclusion:

My conclusion is that Emma had known about and consented to the murders.

THE CASE AGAINST ISAAC DAVIS

Mr. John Morse masterminded the murders, of that I am convinced. But he would have needed two people to assist him in carrying them out - one to kill and another to get the killer quickly and safely away from the scene after the murders.

There is a saying that too many cooks spoil the broth, and here we now have five, including Emma. Can this really be believed? Can this really be the truth? It has to be, there is no other possibility, as both Lizzie and her uncle took an active part in the murders. They didn't kill the victims but somebody did. The only doubtful thing - besides the identity of the killer is - if he really had a confederate to get him away after the murders. I think it is most likely as it would be the fastest and safest way to get away after the murders. But if the killer wore dark brown clothes and washed his hands and face in the sink after the murders, he might just have walked away. But then Mr. Emery must have had a telephone, for I don't think the assassin would have called at his door himself. And the bag with the bloody hatchet and outfit would have been an extra risk.

What is there to say that Isaac Davis wielded the hatchet? Not much, it is true but let us have a look at the clues that are. It appears from Mr. Morse's inquest testimony^(C94) he and Isaac's father, William Davis, had known each other for a long, long time, at least forty years. At the time of the murders John Morse lived with Mr. William Davis and his son Isaac in South Dartmouth. Both father and son were butchers of trade.

I believe that the gruesome way of killing was not done in blind hatred but was done in cold blood as a way to clear Lizzie of suspicion: A lot of blood must have splashed on the assassin, yet there would be not a speck on Lizzie. A hired murderer being a butcher might find this way of killing less revolting than a murderer of some other profession.

Mr. Morse gave as his primary reason (he gave two) for coming to Fall River to see Mr. Borden, that he wanted to buy a pair of oxen for Butcher Davis.^(D237 and E8:2) The fact that she was actively involved in the murders makes it possible, that his alleged reason for coming there was a fabricated one. But he would never have dared to involve Mr. Davis in such a scheme if he was not sure of the latter's cooperation. It is tempting to see Mr. Morse's statement to the reporter^(E8:2) as an allegory, the pair of oxen meaning Mr. and Mrs. Borden.

There is, however, another possibility. In the above-

mentioned interview^(E8:2) Mr. Morse also says: "He (Mr. Davis) had wanted them (the oxen), and I had agreed to take them on a certain day, but had not done so." He gives no reason why he had not fetched the animals on that day, but it is quite possible, that he deliberately stalled it a few days to make it coincide with the murder plan. Then, as Mr. Davis' purchase order would have been real, there would be nothing in this incident to indicate any involvement from Isaac Davis.

Why should Isaac Davis be willing to assassinate Mr. and Mrs. Borden? Here one can only speculate. When accumulating his wealth, Mr. Borden is said not to have been always scrupulously honest. Margaret Judge Grenier^(F17) says that he could deliver products of inferior quality at inflated prices and then be quite ruthless when his customers could not pay. He could lie, cheat and bully. In this way he must have made many enemies and maybe old Mr. Davis was one of these, passing his aversion and lust for revenge on to his son. Then, when the long-time family friend, John Morse - having received some bad turn from Mr. Borden, as well - suggested that they ought to do something about it, maybe the son was quite willing to go along. Money may also have been involved. (The potential motives of the known characters in the drama will be discussed in the following chapter.)

Conclusion:

Mr. Isaac Davis is a good candidate for the role of the assassin in this case. I must admit, though, that I have not been able to build any case at all against him. And who was the one driving the horse team, that got the assassin away?

POSSIBLE MOTIVES

1. Lizzie, and even more so Emma, being nine years older, may have felt their lives slipping away in a state of dependence, which in view of the stern and rigid disposition of their father and their pointed dislike for their stepmother, at length would have seemed unbearable to them. It is said that the girls had nothing to complain about, their purses were well-stuffed and they had money in the bank. But this is far from being rich and independent, to be able to live on the Hill in luxury, to entertain and to travel. It is quite clear that Lizzie, at least, had long thought of her home as an unhappy one.^(F19, H362)

2. Mr. Borden died intestate but John Morse thought that he was thinking of making a will. At any rate Mr. Borden had hinted at making some bequests, for instance to deed his Swansea farm to the Old Ladies Home.^(C106) If the girls knew about this and thought - as has been suggested^(S4) - that their father would more or less disinherit them, they may have thought that he must be stopped, no matter what.

3. Mrs. Lincoln has another theory regarding the Swansea farm. Mr. Borden had agreed to sell it to his brother-in-law, John Morse. But, unexpectedly, he decided to put it in his wife's name. This astounding information got out through a leak in banking circles.^(L55) If this is correct, it would give not only the girls, but also their uncle, a motive.

There seems to be something in this talk about a will or a deed. When Officer Harrington on the murder day looked into the stove, he saw what appeared to be the remnants of burnt paper, quite large,^(D394) which still held a cylindrical form.^(E240:2)

4. "There never is a motive, but there is a cause, always."
(Hosea Knowlton)

However much you would like to acknowledge the truth of this statement, you may have to say to yourself: If ever there was a motive for murder it may have been in this case.

In the book "The Legend 100 Years After the Crime,"^(F13-72) three, no doubt very competent, writers have stated as their opinion, that the Borden family was an incestuous one, that the father with tacit consent of the stepmother sexually abused his daughters. This abuse had started when they were small girls, first against Emma and eventually also against Lizzie. Clear signs of such a dysfunctional pattern would be among many other things, the male dominance, the social isolation and the many locks. Even Lizzie's shoplifting activities may have had its roots in sexual abuse.

Incest against Emma and Lizzie would surely explain why John Morse took part in this crime. The girls were daughters of his sister Sarah. Assuming that he had loved his sister dearly, it will be natural to assume that his affection transferred to the girls after their mother's death.

John Morse had been living in Iowa for a great many years. In April, 1890, he returned east. Why did he come? He gives no reason. But he did not sell his farm in Hastings; he rented it for one year at a time, not knowing how long he would stay.^(C95) It may be that he came for sentimental reasons, to see if he could live out his old age in the neighborhood, which had seen him grow up. But in addition to that there may have been another incentive. Mr. Morse says himself,^(C96) that he and Emma exchanged letters every third or fourth month, while he lived in Iowa. I doubt that Emma would have told him outright in her letters that she and her sister were being sexually molested by their father. But enough of her misery might have been seeping through to make him understand, that something was seriously wrong. This may have been an additional, maybe even the precipitating motive, for coming back east: to see if he could be of any assistance to his nieces. Right after the trial he went back to Hastings to live there until his death.

The murders occurred about two years and four months after Mr. Morse came back east. If he wished to be of help to his nieces why did he not act sooner? The answer may be a simple one, that he was not informed of the real trouble until shortly before the murders. Emma may have been reluctant to talk about it.

Seventeen years before the murders, Mr. Morse had lived a whole year with the Borden family. Lizzie was then fifteen and Emma, twenty-four. If there was incest, must not Mr. Morse have noticed anything during this year? Well, not necessarily. I assume the family members had the same rooms as they did at the time of the murders, only that Emma occupied Lizzie's room and vice versa. There was a connecting door between Emma's

room and that of Mr. and Mrs. Borden. If Mr. Morse slept downstairs in the parlor or in the attic, there would probably have been no problem. And Mr. Borden may have restrained himself a great deal during this year.

The concept of incest has an overwhelming impact on this case. Mr. and Mrs. Borden are no longer two inoffensive people brutally slaughtered. They are villains! Yes, even Mrs. Borden cannot avoid her share of the blame. And Lizzie was no cold-blooded killer. She and her sister were victims, who during many years suffered a revolting and humiliating abuse from a father in whom they had put their trust but who betrayed them, and they got no help from an indifferent stepmother. But that may be too harsh, maybe she was a victim too. And what is there to say about an uncle who out of loyalty and compassion for his sister's daughters risked his life and reputation to help them out of their impossible plight? For that's what he did! The concept of incest puts this crime into a totally different perspective.

Conclusion:

Even a layman can see that living conditions were far from normal in the Borden household. Margaret Judge Grenier, M. Eileen McNamara and Stephen W. Kane have analyzed these conditions and the social behavior of the family members and come to the conclusion, that there was incest going on in the family. I am inclined to believe them. In their misery the prospect of freedom and independence must have seemed unbearably attractive to the two unfortunate sisters.

THE PLAN

Emma went to visit friends in Fairhaven on Thursday, July 21. Lizzie went with her to New Bedford, where she went to see a Mrs. Poole in Madison Street. According to Officer Medley



who made a check-up on her stay there, the only time she had alone was Saturday morning, when she went out shopping for about one and a half hour.^(A31) During this one and a half hour I think that Lizzie saw her uncle and discussed the murder plan with him. It is interesting to note, that there was a rumor, or maybe rather a statement, to the effect that Lizzie had gone to

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New Bedford to see her uncle. When a reporter confronted Mr. Morse with this statement, he denied it "vehemently."^(E31:2) Having gone there in secret to discuss a murder plan it is no wonder that he should feel exposed and be upset.

I think Mr. Morse must have met with the sisters more than once before. On one of these occasions the decision to kill Mr. and Mrs. Borden must have been taken and a general plan, including Emma's absence, discussed. Mr. Morse must also have settled the matter with the assassin-to-be. The meeting now with Lizzie in New Bedford must be looked upon as the final going-through, where everything had to be worked out to the last detail.

At a place previously agreed upon not far from Madison Street, Lizzie, on that Saturday morning, met her uncle who was driving a horse team. Lizzie climbed into the buggy and they set off. After a few minutes drive her uncle asked: "Is Emma gone?" Receiving an affirmative reply Mr. Morse began outlining his thoughts.

They would have two opportunities, either the ensuing Thursday or the next. They would aim for the first. The murders could not be carried out at night, they had agreed upon that, as the doors to the bedroom would be locked. No, it had to be done in broad daylight. That might seem very hazardous but would in fact not be so at all. The strict routines that ruled in the Borden house, where you could foresee more or less in detail what was going to happen, would make the chances of success very good. But of course, there would always be risks. Were she and Emma ready to go through with it? After a short silence Lizzie said: "Dear Uncle, both my sister and I will do anything to get out of our present predicament. Our only concern is you. And Isaac. We are not sure that we should accept that you put yourself in danger for our sake." Her uncle smiled: "Don't worry about us. Ever since I learned about what you have been going through, I have known this had to be done. He will never let you go. So let's get on!"

There seems to be an opinion that Lizzie and her uncle did not get on well together. I don't think that any such opinion can be viewed as a fact. It is true that Lizzie on the eve of the murders did not go into the sitting room to greet her uncle, neither did she see or mention him on the following day before the murders. But that may have been a natural strategy on her part if they were working together in those murders. And Emma says in her inquest testimony:^(E113) "He is a very dear uncle of ours, but corrects herself immediately, "of mine." The reason for this correction is, I believe, the same that Lizzie had for not going in to greet her uncle ... strategy that is. According to a reporter, a member of the Borden family (who could that be?) divulged that "Lizzie regarded Mr. Morse with more tenderness than most nieces feel for their uncles."^(E133:1) Well, I am not saying that Lizzie loved her uncle. All I am saying is that there is less reason to believe in enmity than in real friendship between them.

The deed had to be done on a Thursday, either the next one or on August 4, for on Thursdays Bridget was free after dinner or rather as soon she had prepared for dinner,^(L75, D24) and it was essential that she was out of the way when Mr. Borden came home for dinner. Mr. Morse would arrive on Wednesday evening. He would stay overnight and Lizzie must see to it that

he would sleep in the guest room, not in the attic. "I have a good pretext for coming this time. You see, your father asked me last time if I knew somebody suitable to take charge of his farm and yesterday I wrote him, telling him "yes", saying that I would send the man over. But, of course, I can come myself instead and say the man backed out after all."^(C98)

They would have the whole western part of the house to themselves and could easily smuggle Isaac in during Thursday night. Isaac would bring a bag with his butcher's outfit, including apron and hood, and also a brand new hatchet. In the morning Mrs. Borden would come to the guest room to make the bed and tidy up. She would be killed there.

The murder of Mr. Borden would take place when he came home for dinner. Bridget would be out and Lizzie must lure him up to the guest room by saying that her mother had fainted. Isaac would attack and kill him as soon as he got upstairs. After sending her father upstairs, she would leave the house and go to the barn. She would later say she went there to look for some pieces of iron to fix a broken screen or maybe to use as sinkers for her fishing lines. The idea was to give the impression that the assassin had sneaked into the house and killed her father and stepmother, while she was out in the barn.

It would be necessary for them to have an unshakable alibi. John Morse would leave the house while the two intended victims were still seen alive by Bridget Sullivan. He would not return until after the murders. He would be careful to see to it, that he account for and verify every single minute of his absence.

Lizzie's alibi would be more difficult to construct. She had to be in the house during the murders to wait on Isaac and advise him of good opportunities or rather create such good opportunities herself. To claim that she had been in the barn would not suffice. Therefore, Isaac would use a hatchet. He would see to it, that the scene around the victims was nothing but a bloody mess ... Lizzie gasped. Her uncle looked at and a warm smile spread over his face. "Don't fret, my dear," he said, "Isaac is very competent and will kill with his first blow. The rest doesn't mean anything, but it will give you protection." Lizzie looked at her feet as she nodded for him to go on.

Her uncle continued. Isaac would, of course, bring his hatchet with him when leaving. He would walk away in plain sight. His only disguise would be a hat covering his hair and a false beard. With a little luck somebody would later remember having seen a stranger leaving the premises and report this to the authorities.

Immediately after the last murder Lizzie would have to get herself surrounded by as many people as possible, who could later testify, that there was no blood on her. The most natural thing would be for her to run over to Dr. Bowen's and call on him for help. And as the murder weapon would not be found, who could blame her for the murders? Everything would point to an intruder, which in fact would be quite natural since it was true.

There was one problem, though. Calling on Dr. Bowen for help might be the most natural thing to do, but that meant bringing a competent observer to the scene very quickly. The doctor would very likely notice the difference in the bodily condition of the two victims. For, in reality, it could happen that

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THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN

by Lisa Zawadzki

Hello again, loyal readers! I've been real busy digging high and low for new stuff to keep us all amused. I think you'll like this issue's crop of Borden goodies. So let's take a look, shall we?

Lunday, Todd: *The Mystery Unveiled:
The Truth About the Borden Tragedy:
Fresh Light that Must be Convincing to All
Readers.*
Providence: J.A. & R.A. Reid, 1893.
Reprinted with a new introduction by
Robert A. Flynn. Portland, ME:
King Philip Publishing Co., 1990.

If you haven't yet read this little book, be sure to. It is well worth the effort to seek out and examine. Lunday's contemporary analysis of the crime raised many interesting points. This was not an overview of the whole case, like Porter. It was Lunday's own observations and theories about the morning of the murder.

Lunday proposed that only Lizzie or an unknown named "Villain" could have committed the murders. He made an excellent argument and employed a convincing evolution process by sequencing the action on the day of the crime. His tongue-in-cheek conclusion argued that as "Villain" could not possibly have perpetrated the murders and Lizzie was acquitted, no crimes were committed!

Although the approach was lighthearted, this is a solid look at the Borden murders and Miss Lizzie's actions. This insightful booklet will make you stop and once again reexamine what you thought you already knew.

Lunday is something of a mystery man. I think he might have been a newspaper reporter possibly writing under a false name, but I've never been able to find anything on him. If anyone has any information to share on Mr. Lunday, I would be most grateful.

Lester, Henry. *Lizzie Borden
In Unsolved Murders & Mysteries*
John Canning, ed.
Secaucus, N.J.: Chartwell Books, 1987.
Pages 41-47

Lizzie has been anthologized once again. This British essay was short, but gave a detailed retelling of the murders and Lizzie's life. Lester managed to include a balanced account of the

events of the crime. The major works and their theories were mentioned and briefly explained.

He also gave details on Lizzie's later life, something most anthologies tend to gloss over in a sentence or two. Lizzie's friendship with Nance O'Neil and her little tangle with Tilden-Thurber were discussed. As mentioned, there was good coverage of the progression of books on the murders. The theories of Pearson, Radin, Gross, Snow and Lincoln were examined and discussed. Lester closed out well, with a few rhymes.

Silvia, Philip T. *Victorian Vistas: Fall River 1886-1900*
Fall River, MA: R.E. Smith Printing Co., 1988.

Victorian Vistas was a wonderful pictorial history of the great city of Fall River. In this attractive volume, Silvia reprinted contemporary photographs and newspaper articles.

Several interesting items on the Borden case were included. Pictures of the Borden yard, the A.J. Borden building, and Lizzie's entry in the prison register were reproduced. The newspaper articles chosen were absorbing and gossipy - "Lizzie Borden tested for insanity" and the fact

that she paid \$13,000 for Maplecroft.

A nice selection of first-hand accounts, these were perhaps taken from the Fall River newspapers. My one complaint is just that, the items had no citations. A lovely book to examine and useful to understand the Fall River that Lizzie knew.

Mitchell, Walter *Lizzie Borden: Her Life After the Murders*
Spectator: January 4, 1978.

The lonely life of Lizzie Borden after the trial was recounted here. Mitchell told of her being socially ostracized, her shoplifting habits, and the many ways she spent her inheritance. Several amusing anecdotes were included, especially the unlikely story that she had purchased a copy of Pearson's *Studies in Murder*. Her review of that book was not noted.

Brown, Michael *The Lizzie Borden Song
In Masterpieces of Murder.*
Jonathan Goodman, ed.
New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, 1992.
Pages 351-353.

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No, not Gross's Masterpieces in Murder! This little article is from yet another crime anthology. Presumably written by Goodman, this brief essay lists the accomplishments of composer Michael Brown. The major part of the three pages were the lyrics to the song commonly known as *You Can't Chop Your Poppa Up in Massachusetts*.

There was a footnote to the line about killing because "you're tired of the cuisine" explaining the menu of the Borden breakfast to the uninitiated. The piece concluded with a short bit on Lizzie and the author's autograph.

This is the song performed on the New Faces of 1952 album and by the Chad Mitchell Trio. I have found citations that Brown himself recorded the song on a couple of albums, but I've never seen them. But now that you have the lyrics, you can sing it yourself. Maybe next August 4th we can all go out caroling!

That's all for now. I leave you with this original poem. See you in the next issue.

*Lizzie Borden dropped her axe,
Gave Joe Friday "just the facts".
When she told what she had done,
Dum-da-Dum-Dum **DUM DUM!***

THE BORDEN CASE AND THE IRRELEVANCE OF REASON

(Continued from Page 4)

and if we could just free ourselves of that assumption, the clouds would open, daylight would stream through, and we would see the true answer. One such false assumption has been exposed, again by Professor Masterson and by later articles in the "Quarterly" -- the idea that it was so blasted hot on August 4. Sadly, no one has as yet shown how giving up that assumption changes anything substantively about the probabilities of guilt or innocence of any of the involved parties; the difficulty in believing Lizzie's barn alibi, for instance, depends only in part upon the question of heat. Are there other assumptions that need to be reexamined critically? Most theories of the crime assume that whoever killed one of the Borden's killed both; that the same weapon was used both times; that Mrs. Borden died first; and that the crimes occurred about 1½ - 2 hours apart. If any of those assumptions turn out to be unfounded, many people's views of the case would truly be turned inside out and then it might develop that a logical or scientific explanation, on the evidence at hand, could actually be given. Finally, of course, time might reveal a new fact or bit of evidence that had previously lain concealed.

The people at the Bristol Community College Conference who hoped never to hear a final solution said that that was so they could go on having fun with the case. People who consider themselves scientists and logicians are loathe to admit that they might be doing what they do for fun, as opposed to impersonally seeking the truth. But maybe it is time for all of us to lighten up on that score.

VICTORIA'S PRIVATE DISGRACE

by Glenn E. Argus

(Editor's note: This information was received in a letter to the editor, and as such, I felt it deserved special consideration. For those not already familiar with this story, it can be found on page 316 of Ms. Lincoln's book. Although this material has been previously exposed, Mr. Argus' letter contains first-hand information. In addition, he is, in his own words, "A devoted Lizzie fan.")

I believe there are many stories about Lizzie's life in Fall River that are true and some not so true. As a dedicated Lizzie fan, I'd like to throw some cold water on a small fire started by Victoria Lincoln in *A Private Disgrace*.

My mother-in-law, Mrs. Edward Van de Water, lived at 254 French Street when Lizzie died. She is 85 years old now and often talks about her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Bemis¹, being invited to Lizzie's funeral. There were only a few people in attendance with them. They never mentioned that Lizzie was not there. It appears that her coffin was not secretly carried off by black men the night before. Her burial at Oak Grove cemetery was not unusual at all.

One would like to think that when reading about Lizzie, especially material written by a local author, you are reading facts and not fiction.

¹See the bottom of page 260 in *A Casebook of Family and Crime in the 1890's* for mention of Frederick E. Bemis.

LIZZIE BORDEN "TESTIFIES" IN FALL RIVER

(Continued from Page 1.)

actual forensic evidence in order to present it as realistically as possible and as close as to what really occurred. Who knows, I thought, maybe by recreating all the evidence with real actors, we may even discover something new. We studied the pattern of wounds on Andrew Borden's head, the bloodstains on the picture above the sofa and parlor door and the fact that the murderer in his act did not in the least disturb the occasional table¹ in front of the sofa. And after acting out every possible scenario we could think of, we ended up with the surprising conclusion that Andrew Borden was awake, standing, and facing his right-handed killer when first struck. I know this sounds like a wild theory, but we discovered a lot of this in rehearsal from direct experimentation with the forensic information available. Want to know how? Okay, here goes.

¹This table, moved out of the way and not shown in the often-reproduced photo of Andrew Borden in death, can be seen in the grisly autopsy photo of Andrew published on page 13 of *The Knowlton Papers* (he is lying on it) and is sketched and mentioned by witnesses in contemporary newspaper reports as having been found undisturbed when the crime was discovered.

EXPERIMENT #1

We dipped our prop hatchet in water and lifted it up and down with a chopping motion to see where and how droplets of water would fly from it. Unfailingly, water drops flew directly forward from the top of the hatchet during the backswing of each blow. Since blood spots are described as having been found on the picture on the wall above the sofa, in curved patterns on the wall and on the parlor door, the killer must have directly faced those areas as he or she struck, probably changing positions at least once during the murder as the victim fell and then slumped on the sofa. In other words, the killer could not have struck at Andrew from the dining room, but instead faced him directly.

EXPERIMENT #2

Take a close look at the picture of Andrew Borden's skull and you will notice, above his left eye, a cut that appears to have been delivered at almost a 45 degree angle. To deliver a hatchet blow at such an angle from above or to the side is impractical if not impossible, especially if you've got a coffee table behind you. Try this one yourself, if you like: In a standing position, take a hammer and hold it as if to strike down at something. You will notice that it tends to go straight down. Now, stand up straight and strike forward, as if to drive a nail into the wall. What does your arm do naturally? Aha! 45 degrees! We discovered after numerous attempts to kill our Andrew in such a way that his final position was consistent with all the evidence, that he cannot possibly have been lying down, because the angle of the eye wound is wrong, (and, anyway, who sleeps with both feet flat on the floor?), and he very likely wasn't sitting up either, because most likely in that case he would have received his first wounds in the top of his head! (Once again, try this yourself. Take a ruler, sit a willing victim on the sofa, stand in front of the coffee table and take a pretend whack. Where does the thing end up?) For the record, I believe Andrew's mortal wounds were delivered in the following general fashion (the only way we ended up being able to make the scene work on stage and still be consistent with the evidence): first, as he stood up in front of the sofa, the 45 degree angle blow split his eye; second, the blows to the lower part of the face as he sank onto the back of the sofa (at which time blood spots flew from the hatchet onto the wall and picture); third, as he slumped further toward the parlor side of the sofa, the blows to the side of the head which crushed his skull, (at which time blood spots flew onto the parlor door). I'm open to discussion on this stuff, but it all seems pretty consistent with Abby's murder, whom everyone seems to agree was attacked first in the face also.

LIZZIE BORDEN IS ALIVE AND WELL AND STILL DANGEROUS

Not really -- actually, Lizzie Borden is dead as a doornail. Her remains have been crumbling away for some time now in Oak Grove Cemetery in Fall River. She breathes, walks and speaks today only as a creature of the imagination (sometimes with character traits imposed to fill dramatic gaps in her legend -- in other words, if indeed Lizzie Borden was truly guilty of the crime for which she was accused, we want to find out at the end of the story that some abominable wrong was present at 92 Second Street in 1892 to make Lizzie Borden's behavior make sense). And what imaginations people have! How do you "see" Lizzie

Borden? Is your conception of her character like any of those below? I was surprised to see that as many people as I met in Fall River and elsewhere had as many different clear mental pictures of this woman as they did -- and that so many were staunchly determined to defend their positions.

LIZZIE, THE PARIAH

This Victorian lady, a concerned and active citizen (and animal lover) was found innocent by a jury of her peers. Can't we leave it at that? (See *Lizzie Borden: the Untold Story* by Edward Radin, *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts vs. Lizzie A. Borden*, Fall River Historical Society, especially Lizzie's bio!)

LIZZIE, THE VICTIM

This respectable member of an old Fall River family was an unwitting player in someone else's plot to murder Andrew Borden. (See *Lizzie Borden, the Legend, the Truth, the Final Chapter* by Arnold Brown)

LIZZIE, THE TRAGIC HEROINE

This optimistic young woman, deprived of the life of [dramatic/artistic/romantic] excitement she craved, yearned for a release from the confines of her dull, worn-out home. So, she killed her parents. Or maybe she didn't really mean to. (See *Lizzie Borden* by Elizabeth Engstrom and other similar novels.) One of the first actresses to play Lizzie in New Hope took the part a little too much to heart, I think, because she saw Lizzie in this way. She ended up taking the whole method-acting thing too far, losing herself in the role and giving the actor playing Andrew Borden one of the biggest goose eggs I've ever seen on his forehead on closing night (she had hit him with the wooden handle of the rubber hatchet).

LIZZIE, THE CRIMINAL

This covetous, cold, calculating villainess plotted to murder for gain. And may have had a co-conspirator. (See *Goodbye Lizzie Borden* by Robert Sullivan, *Lizzie* by Frank Spiering.) I think our leading lady Prisha Everett is in this camp, but puts a decidedly humorous spin on the whole thing, writing me cards on Lizzie's stationery, etc.

THE UNBALANCED LIZZIE

This hormonally or otherwise medically unbalanced or emotionally immature woman struck out at her abusive parents in a rage of jealousy/spite/vengeance/. (See *A Private Disgrace by Victoria Lincoln*) This Lizzie is kind of the poster girl for assertiveness training, and was adopted by another one of our Lizzie actresses who drove around for months with a photo of you-know-who taped to her gear shift. My own view? In death, as in life, I think she remains a cipher, but, I think, inside, she was a little bit of all of the above, and if I were to conjecture about her personality (as I had to in order to direct actresses on how to interpret her words and behavior) I would venture to say she probably possessed some degree of duality -- that she likely presented herself in public as a socially respectable Victorian lady but that perhaps harbored a sort of "bad seed" inner child that rarely if ever presented itself out of the house.

ALL BORDEN FANS ARE NUTS

Has Lizzie Borden affected your life? Lizzie Borden surely has more boyfriends today than she ever had when she was alive. Has she ever affected your work performance? Made you late for
(Continued on next page.)

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anything? Have you ever gone to bed at night unable to get her out of your thoughts? Yes, that's right, nuts. What's the point of glorifying this woman with t-shirts, paperweights and ... wait a minute ... theatrical performances? Uh oh. All kidding aside, I've found most of the Borden fanatics I've met to be much more interesting than the case itself (which tends to look sadder and more morbid the deeper you probe into it), not to mention the fact that they're almost all very nice people. Like your estimable publisher, Jules Ryckebusch, who took us into his lovely home and gave us a full-scale tour of Fall River and New Bedford (in addition to volunteering to play Dr. Seabury Bowen in the production). Like George Quigley, who took several of our cast members on an impromptu tour of Swansea and related stories about his distant relative Bridget Sullivan. Like your new editor-in-chief Maynard Bertolet who, at the last minute, came through for me with a cassette tape of some obscure piano music by Alexander Scriabin that I wanted to use for intermission music. Like Ron Evans and Martha McGinn who offered us mutton soup when we visited 92 Second Street for the first time. I'm still getting nice cards and letters from cast members thanking me for including them in the show. But just when I start to think life is getting back to normal again, a cast member sends photos in the mail of our Emma and Lizzie sitting cross-legged on their namesakes' graves in Oak Grove Cemetery rehearsing their lines. Why do we do this? I guess when it comes down to it, all of this mystery business is all in good fun after all!

AN ARMCHAIR SOLUTION TO THE BORDEN MYSTERY

(Continued from Page 10.)

Mrs. Borden was killed two, maybe three hours before her husband. That meant that her blood would probably have coagulated considerably more than his, and maybe rigor mortis would have begun to invade her body.

The only way to deal with this would be to create a possibility that the killer had entered, not while Lizzie was out in the barn, but earlier, even much earlier. In such case he could have killed Mrs. Borden hours before Mr. Borden. But how was this to be done? Well, one way - and maybe the only one at that - would be if the cellar door was found open. Then there would be no telling when the assassin had entered. Lizzie was to go out to the barn before Isaac killed her father. She must leave the house through the cellar and leave the cellar door open. When Isaac had left she would return to the house via the kitchen entry, slowly so that her chance of being seen would be good.

If Maggie delayed herself or if Mr. Borden returned early, it could happen, that Maggie was still downstairs, when Mr. Borden came home. In such case Lizzie must tell her father that his wife had gone out, not to the market as he would then start wondering why she didn't come back. Under no circumstances must he go looking for her upstairs or send Lizzie or Maggie to look for her. So Lizzie must tell him that her stepmother had gone out on a special errand, on a sick call, maybe. Then she must get rid of Maggie as soon as possible, but without acting suspiciously. When all was set, she must go up the front stairs, "make the



Our Publisher, Jules Ryckebusch, as Dr. Seabury Bowen in the Play
"The Testimony of Lizzie Borden."

Photograph reproduced courtesy of Jeannine H. Bertolet.

discovery", rush downstairs again and tell her father, that his wife lay unconscious in the guest room and that he must go to her immediately, while she, Lizzie, fetched a doctor. She would then go out to the barn via the cellar and so on.

"But, Lizzie," her uncle went on, "you must realize that you will be suspected. But remember that you will be absolutely clean of blood and the hatchet won't be found, so they can never prove anything. And if Isaac is seen, there should be no problem. But if things get rough, all you have to do is to stick to your story and not give in" - he raised his index finger and measured off a portion with his thumb - "not one inch!" Lizzie said in her trembling voice: "You need not worry, Uncle. But one thing you should know: Neither Emma nor I will ever give you away. We'd rather go to the scaffold." She panted heavily: "I am so ashamed. To think that I used to condone, no, even welcome his ... his ... Him! Only when you opened my eyes did I see ... did I realize ... well, I knew, of course. What a disgrace! Tears rolled down her cheeks as her uncle reached out for her.

When she had recovered they rode on in silence: At length Lizzie spoke: "Uncle, did you say Thursday? That it has to be done on a Thursday?" Receiving a "Yes, why?" she continued: "I don't think it will work. You see, on Thursdays Mr. Eddy comes to the house with the week's delivery of eggs from the farm. Sometimes he stays for dinner and sometimes he doesn't."

This was a serious setback. It seemed as if his plan would crumble almost before it saw daylight. But after questioning Lizzie carefully about this and also if there were any other obstacles she could think of, Mr. Morse saw a way out: "Lizzie", he said, "don't worry, I'll go fetch the eggs myself!"

On the way back to South Dartmouth he thought the situation over. Of course, he must go to the farm and get the eggs. That meant he must come to Second Street on Wednesday, early in the

afternoon instead of in the evening. He would need a reason, not for his brother-in-law, but for Frank Eddy at the farm. What if he should say that he wanted to buy some cattle from the farm. Well, maybe not he himself, as he owned no farm here, but he could say that Isaac wanted a pair of oxen. He chuckled. They did want a pair of oxen all right, human oxen or a cow and an ox to be precise. Maybe he'd better write Eddy about it saying that he would of course have to discuss the matter with Mr. Borden before anything could be settled. Then Mr. Eddy would not be surprised to see him and later the investigators would recognize that he had a good reason to go there and nobody would think of the eggs!

Don't miss the exciting conclusion of "An Armchair Solution to the Borden Mystery" in the April, 1996 issue.

BORDEN 1893/SIMPSON 1995 CASE SIMILARITIES

(Continued from Page 5.)

- Simpson case: Ronald Goldman's departure from the restaurant where he worked gives a time frame. The mother of one of the victims called the victim, leaving a time table. A barking dog which disturbed neighbors is another reference point.
3. In both cases, excluding the victims, there were two people in the house at the time of the murders.
- Borden case: Lizzie and the maid, Bridget, were at home.
- Simpson case: The two children of Nicole Brown Simpson and O.J. Simpson were sleeping in their respective bedrooms in the house.
4. In both cases there was no outcry of the victims heard, despite people in close proximity.
5. In both cases there is a history of family discord.
- Borden case: The Borden daughters and their stepmother did not like each other. The daughters called her "Mrs. Borden", after living 17 years in the same house. Mr. Borden was considered tyrannical and manipulative.
- Simpson case: 911 calls and pictures of a bruised Nicole Brown indicate wife-battering.
6. Both cases present some confusion about the murder weapon.
- Borden case: A hatchet was believed to be the murder weapon because of the wounds. No satisfactory weapon was ever found.
- Simpson case: A six-inch blade knife is believed to be the murder weapon. No satisfactory weapon was ever found.

7. In both cases bloody clothing was suspected to be associated with the accused.
- Borden case: A burned dress was suspect and refuted by the defense.
- Simpson case: Gloves and socks were suspect and refuted by the defense.
8. In both cases the suspect was not seen by anyone at the time of the murders and neither has an eye witness alibi.
9. Both cases indicate rage toward the victims.
- Borden case: Repeated blows with a hatchet to both victims was a display of rage and passion.
- Simpson case: Both victims had their throats cut. Ronald Goldman sustained more than three fatal wounds.
10. Both scenes were horrendously bloody, violently gory, mystifying followers of either case concerning the escape of the murderer.

At least ten common areas exist between the crime of the nineteenth century and the crime of the twentieth century, the Borden murders and the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. Human nature predicts strong polarized feelings regarding guilt or innocence of the accused in both cases. Will the same polarity exist one hundred years from now about O.J. Simpson?

It is interesting to see how these "crimes of the century" parallel each other in outcome. The state did not prove its case against Lizzie Borden, and she was acquitted. Even today, for devotees of the case, there is still latitude to argue over guilt or innocence, which is not the same as the state proving its assumptions. Locked door murder puzzles fascinate many of us. Books and articles continue to be published, offering new ideas and possible suspects concerning this case of one hundred years ago.

Mega-many articles and books have been, are being, and will be published about the Simpson case. Will the same interest flourish one hundred years from now? This case is also unsolved with speculation about "whodunit?"

Since O.J. Simpson was acquitted, will there be another popularized ditty as there was in the Borden case, despite Lizzie Borden's acquittal?

Instead of:

*Lizzie Borden took an ax,
Gave her mother forty whacks.
When she saw what she had done,
Gave her father forty-one!*

Will it be:

*O.J. Simpson got a knife,
Slashed Ron Goldman and his wife.
Then he lost his gloves, they say.
Did he really get away?*

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THE FALL RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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University of Massachusetts
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April, 1996

What's In A Name?:

BRIDGET SULLIVAN, BEFORE AND AFTER

by Riobard O'Dwyer
In Collaboration With:
Maynard F. Bertolet

(Editor's note: Mr. O'Dwyer is a world renowned Genealogist specializing in Irish Parishes located on the Beara Peninsula. Since state records did not exist for the nineteenth century, it was necessary for him to begin his research by extensively studying Parish records from the Catholic Church and the Churches of Ireland and England. He has spent more than 30 years researching the Beara Peninsula area where Bridget Sullivan was born and has the complete Parish records from 1819 through 1995. He is the only person in the world who can put to rest all previous Bridget Sullivan genealogical unknowns. For more information about Mr. O'Dwyer, please see page 12.

We are indebted to our Publisher's wife, Mrs. Margaret A. Rycebusch, for locating Mr. O'Dwyer and making the connection between him and myself. Incidentally, Mrs. Rycebusch herself is a distant relative of the previously elusive Bridget Sullivan!)

Even though countless pages have been written about the Borden Hatchet-Murders, the information about the Borden maid has been sketchy at best and erroneous at worst. For example, she has been reported by different writers as being born in nine different years between 1864 and 1875. At last we now have the means to answer this and other questions while laying a backdrop describing the forces that shaped her being.



Allihies Mine, Townland of Billerough, Parish of Allihies, Beara Peninsula, County Cork, Ireland
This is the Townland where Bridget Sullivan was born and lived her first 19 years.

Photograph reproduced courtesy of Riobard O'Dwyer, N.T.

BEFORE BRIDGET

The beautiful Allihies Parish (Kilnamagh) located at the western end of the Beara Peninsula, County Cork, Ireland is a splash of pure natural splendor, scenic beauty, rugged hills and shorelines washed and shaped by the Atlantic Ocean. Underneath hills and fields not far from Cluin Village are the copper mines opened in 1812 by Puxley of Dunboy. Mine captains and miners from Cornwall were brought over to teach the art of extracting copper ore to the people of Allihies and neighboring parishes. The remains of an old Cornish miner's village can still be seen immediately east of the main entrance to the mines. Life for most

Berehaven families revolved around the ups and downs of the Allihies mines for many years.

After his regiment disbanded in 1802, a Wexford man, Colonel Hall, spent his time searching for copper. The Allihies Copper Mines, on which Daphne du Maurier based her novel *Hungry Hill*, were discovered by Colonel Hall in 1810. The mine construction was underwritten by the two landlords, John Lavallin Puxley of Dunboy and Lord Bantry. The first mine shafts were sunk in what was called the Dooneen Mine on the coast road from North Allihies to Eyeries.

(Continued on Page 11)

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY
A Different Menu

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| Diffrent Strokes for Diffrent Folks <i>by Nancy L'enz Hogan</i> | Page 5. |
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MISS LIZBETH BORDEN'S EDITOR SPEAKS

We have nothing to fool you about this April. The articles herein represent some advances. For the first time, a professional genealogist has lent his expertise to resolve many questions that surround the life and times of Bridget Sullivan. The next issue will contain a detailed look at the forbears of Miss Lizbeth herself!

In addition, the conclusion to Fritz Adilz's monumental mountain of work has reached its conclusion. Your editor requested two respected authors to review his work. Neither was aware of the other. Their approach to the subject at hand was totally different and their two points of view are very interesting indeed. The LBQ does not of itself offer editorial comment and the views of our contributors do not necessarily represent those of the management.

As a result of a letter to the editor, a new *Coming Events* department has been added. Prior to each issue, a poll of knowledgeable people will be taken to ascertain any known future happenings that would be of interest to our readership. Any such events will be duly reported.

Maynard F. Bertolet

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

December 20, 1995

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your continued publication of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* and welcome aboard as its new editor.

Thank you, too, for Fritz Adilz. It is a pleasure reading the works of someone willing to think rather than simply mouth the age-old pap. Thinking is dangerous; it often leads to truth. Uncle John was, beyond any shadow of a doubt, a before-the-fact conspirator with Miss Lizzie. Their collusion was not to do murder most foul, but to insure the temporary removal of Mrs. Abby Borden from the house on Second Street.

Mrs. Borden, it is written in many accounts, seldom left the house beyond trips to shops located just around the corner. The "conspirators" needed Mrs. Borden out of the house for an extended period of time to provide Andrew's son, William Borden, with sufficient time for a meeting with his father. Billie had demanded, and was granted, a problem-discussion audience.

On a recorded previous occasion, Mrs. Borden disrupted a meeting between them. This angered William Borden, provably unstable mentally, to a fever pitch. For the meeting, the "conspirators" had devised a plan that insured there could be no possibility of Mrs. Borden interfering and disrupting. Abby Borden fervently hated William and all that William, by accident of his birth, symbolized to her.

On what became the murder morning, Mr. Morse's attribution was completed. Abby would accompany William Bassett to nearby Westport on a mission of mercy. When Uncle John left the house, he was headed for the Old Colony Depot to catch the departing-at-noon train back to Fairhaven. In 1892, this depot was located within 500 yards of his nephew's house on Weybosset Street. Quite naturally, Mr. Morse allotted sufficient time for a short visit with his relatives before catching the train.

As a perfect example of the Lizzie-Lore Legend clouding the facts, while Miss Bridget did, in recorded fact, testify that she overheard Mr. Borden invite his brother-in-law back for noon dinner that would-be murder morning, NO ONE, Miss Bridget included, testified that she or he heard John Morse either accept or decline the invitation. Because acceptance of the invitation fits the legend as snugly as an Isotoner leather glove made in the Philippines, Lizzie-Lore says he accepted the invitation and planned a return to the house. In provable fact, he did not accept it; he declined it.

After the murders, Miss Lizzie pressed Dr. Bowen into service as a messenger whose assignment was to go as quickly as possible and find Uncle John who was either at the Emery house or walking to the depot. He was to tell them what had happened and stop him from taking his train. Want proof? Easy. First read my account depicting the murder day actions of Dr. Seabury W. Bowen beginning on page 163 of *Lizzie Borden - The Legend, the Truth, the Final Chapter*, (available at your local Public Library free of charge), and then read HK113, Page 117 of *The Knowlton Papers* (available at the *Fall River Historical Society*).

Successfully intercepted by Dr. Bowen and told Andrew Borden had been slain, John Morse returned to the house on Second Street

and entered the yard IN SHOCK. Provably, as I pointed out in my book, the crowd assembled there when he arrived may not have registered in his muddled mind. His first recorded question asked of Miss Lizzie is most revealing, "For God's sakes, how did this happen?"

Tell me, is that the question of a man who helped plot the brutal murders of two friends or is it the question of a man who helped plan a perfectly innocent action that, in his mind, must somehow, have gone tragically wrong.

Need more? Keep thinking and ask questions.

Sincerely,
Arnold R. Brown

(Editor's note: Mr. Brown is a regular contributor and author of note. His conception of the Borden Hatchet-Murders is well documented in his book "Lizzie Borden - The Legend, the Truth, the Final Chapter," still available at some bookstores. Fritz Adilz's article, concluding in this issue, prompted Mr. Brown's letter. As is always the case at the LBQ, the opinions expressed by our various contributors do not necessarily represent those of the LBQ.)

February 5, 1996

Dear Editor,

If it's at all possible, would you please let us know in the April issue of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* if there are any plans in the works for this coming August in Fall River. We are especially interested in finding out if the Second Street house will be open to the public at that time. If you could list any upcoming events planned for the Borden Anniversary, it would be a big help to those of us who need to make travel plans to be there. Thanks for your help!

Ron and Kathy Viste
Eau Claire, WI

(Editors note: A very reasonable request! Many times we have been in the dark about interesting events that occur without our knowledge. I will make an effort to correct this. Shortly before forwarding an issue to the printer, the Fall River Historical Society and local knowledgeable Fall River residents will be polled. In the current issue on page 14, there is a Coming Events section where two "Lizzie" happenings are described, one of which should answer your specific question.)

THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN

by Lisa Zawadzki

Hello again, loyal readers! *The Bibliographic Borden* is here again with new things to read. I am very pleased with myself, I just found a like-new copy of Louis Solomon's *The Ma & Pa Murders and Other Perfect Crimes*. Love that axe on the cover! Well, enough chit-chat, on to the literature.

Cyriax, Oliver,

CRIME: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA

London: Andre Deutsch Ltd., 1993: 38-39.

Lizzie got a two-page treatment in this British reference book. Cyriax gave an overview of the case that was not always accurate. For example, he claimed that the Borden house in "Falls River" was surrounded by a "high barbed-wire topped fence" and that Lizzie was 40 at the time of the murders. I know the age given was wrong, and the photographs of the house show low fences (at least in front) without any barbed wire. He got the number of "whacks" wrong, too.

Nevertheless, this piece was not all bad. Cyriax gave a good brief analysis of the motives, both of public and Lizzie. He mentioned the possibility of incest and the proposed exhumation of the elder Borden, so he has been keeping up on the newest information. This was not as complete as some summaries of the events, but it had an interesting point of view.

Freeman, Mary E. Wilkins,

THE LONG ARM

London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd., 1895.

Also in: *AMERICAN DETECTIVE STORIES*

New York: Oxford University Press, 1927.

and: *VICTORIAN TALES OF MYSTERY AND DETECTION*

Michael Cox, editor. New York:

Oxford University Press, 1992: 377-405.

This is a nice little mystery story that took elements fresh from the Borden case. I had always wanted to read this as it was one of the first uses of the events in fiction, but was never able to locate it until a few years ago when it was included in the Cox

anthology.

THE LONG ARM was the story of a school teacher accused of murder. Several similarities with the Borden murders were present. Sarah Fairbanks had an Andrew-like dad who was murdered. She, a "lady", was suspected. There was a blood-stained dress hidden by the accused. There was even a relative visiting, who when accused had an iron-clad alibi.

But that's where the similarities end. This was not a retelling of the Borden murders. Wilkins took events from a popular crime of the day and used them in her story. This was an enjoyable short story and an interesting look at the way women were thought of in 1895.

Burt, Olive Woolley,

*AMERICAN MURDER
BALLADS AND THEIR
STORIES*

New York: Oxford University Press, 1958: 14-15.

In case my little poem in the last issue wasn't enough for you, here are more variations on the famous four-line verse about Lizzie. Burt provided two pages of often funny rhymes that everyone will like. Two stanzas of A.L. Bixby's "To Lizzie" were reprinted. There was even a joke! Check this book out, it's only a small article, but it's pretty amusing.

Hale, Judson D.,

Fall River Legend

In: *A SENSE OF HISTORY:*

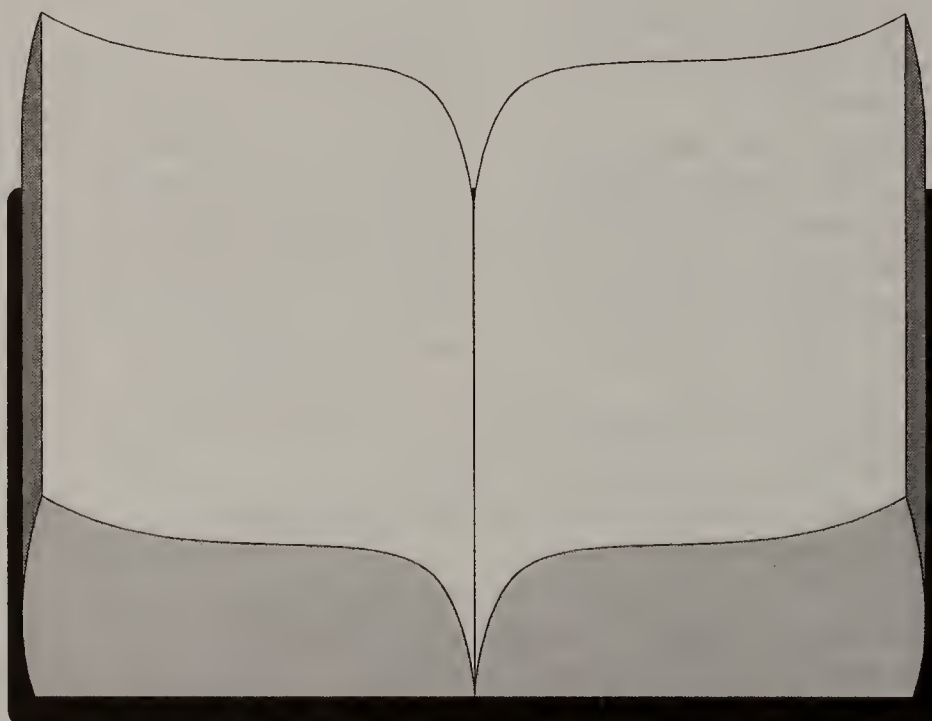
*THE BEST WRITING FROM THE PAGES OF
AMERICAN HERITAGE*

New York: American Heritage, 1985: 27-28.

Hale, the editor of "Yankee Magazine" and "The Old Farmer's Almanac" chose the Borden murders as the event from American history he would have most liked to witness. From the chapter "I Wish I'd Been There", we learn that he would have liked to have been an invisible observer on that famous morning.

He recounted the three horrors he would have observed (two murders and that breakfast!) Once he knew the answer to the mystery, he swears that he would never tell. I think most of the readers of the LBQ would identify with this essay. I think if I had this choice, I would be tempted to know once and for all.

That's all for now. See you in the next issue.



SPOTLIGHT ON LISA ZAWADZKI

By the Editor and Lisa Zawadzki

Since the second issue of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly*, readers have been tantalized by the mouth-watering Lizzie-In-Print offerings uncovered by the ubiquitous Lisa Zawadzki. Lisa must be omniscient as well, in order to locate, issue-after-issue, items that trigger an immediate search.

Ms. Zawadzki first came to our attention during the Lizzie Borden Conference at Bristol Community College in Fall River, August 3 through 5, 1992. It was there she presented her paper *The Borden Murders: An Annotated Bibliography*. Her paper, with additions, can be read in the *Conference Proceedings* book edited by our Publisher, Jules Ryckebusch, and published in 1993 by Robert A. Flynn, Publisher, King Philip Publishing Company, 466 Ocean Avenue, Portland, ME, 04103-5718.

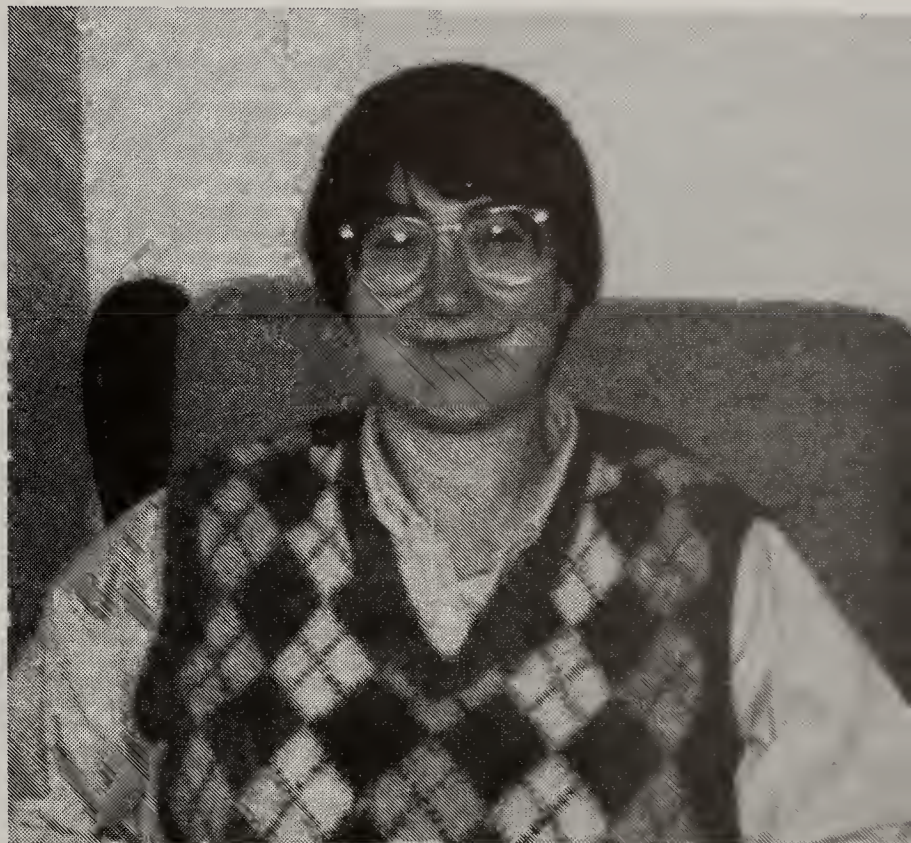
Lisa was born in Providence, Rhode Island on April 27, 1966 and has lived in Coventry all her life. She is employed as a Technical Services Librarian at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library in Johnston, R.I. Ms. Zawadzki graduated from the Community College of Rhode Island with an A.S. in Business, Rhode Island College with a B.A. in history and the University of Rhode Island with an MLN (Master of Library and Information Studies).

Her interest in the Borden case came early. Lisa was still in elementary school when she read *The Ma & Pa Murders and Other Perfect Crimes* from Louis Solomon's *Great Unsolved Crimes*. Even as a youngster she was drawn to the unusual, and since the Borden case was local, she naturally had to know all about it.

Lisa continued to read about Lizzie through high school and into college. While in graduate school, she had to prepare a bibliography for a reference services class. Naturally, she chose the Borden case. Most of the materials were already available, she thought, and the legwork already completed. It didn't quite turn out that way. Lisa is still adding to that same bibliography.

The Conference at BCC in 1992 was a highpoint. She met a lot of great people with the same interest. After her bibliography presentation, she was surprised at the enthusiastic response. "People are really obsessed," Lisa said, "and many want to read every scrap they can about the case. I still keep in touch with several of my penfriends. People always ask me if I think Lizzie is guilty. My honest answer is 'I don't know.' In many ways, to me, it's almost beside the point. There are so many ways to examine this case and the people involved. That's what keeps me interested, finding all these different points of view to read. My column is great fun for me. I'm always on the lookout for new items and I welcome letters from my loyal readers."

Many of us are following along right behind you Lisa, and your excellent research keeps us on the trail you so ably blaze. Incidentally, Lisa's two favorite books are *Forty Whacks* by David Kent and Victoria Lincoln's *A Private Disgrace*. Readers may write to Lisa in-care-of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* Editor.



Lisa, at home, resting from her labours
Photograph reproduced courtesy of Lisa Zawadzki.

DIFF'RENT STROKES FOR DIFF'RENT FOLKS

One daren't
speak rudely
to a parent --
it simply isn't done
If domestic tensions
should occur, it's preferable to
just defer, instead --
(with pleasant candor) --
rather than lop off a hand or
head
of the paternal grouch
who happens to be
nappin' on the couch
Then when girl-talk fails
with the other --
the fairy tale stepmother --
what can a poor child do
but hew and hew and hew?
and hew
Hmm? Wouldn't you?

Nancy L'enz Hogan

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AN ARMCHAIR SOLUTION TO THE BORDEN MYSTERY

- CONCLUSION -

By Fritz Adilz

(Editor's note: This is the final installment of Fritz's monumental effort in presenting his theory to the long-sought solution. At the conclusion of this article, beginning on page 8, you will find two reviews of Fritz's entire work.)

THE POISON

Back in her room at Mrs. Poole's, Lizzie pondered her uncle's plan. She felt strangely elated and suppressed the vague uneasiness that preyed on her mind with fortitude. They were going to pay - *he* was going to pay! She and Emma would at last be free! Free of the dependence and the humiliation. And in less than a week from now!

Knowing the strict routines observed in the Borden house, she had great confidence in her uncle's plan. But she was also aware of the fact that even the best plan could go wrong. Something unexpected could wreck it. The thought of facing her father, knowing that he knew and then spend perhaps, the rest of her life in prison, was an impossible one. She felt she had to have a way out, if the worst came to the worst. She was no longer afraid to die. She would try to get some poison, not arsenic, because that meant a slow and agonizing death, but a fast and painless poison. She had read about prussic acid and its quick effect. So, she would get some prussic acid.

MURDER MOST FOUL

For some reason, Thursday, July 28 had to be abandoned, so it was not until the following Wednesday that Mr. Morse went to the Borden's. He arrived at about half-past one.^(C98) During the conversation he had with the Borden couple, he learned that Mr. Eddy had already informed them of the oxen deal. They talked about it for a while and then Mr. Morse said he would go out to the farm to see Mr. Vinnicum, who lived close by, and also see Mr. Eddy. He invited Mr. Borden to go with him, but the invitation was declined. Of course, John Morse never offered to postpone going to the farm until the next morning, as he later testified that he did.^(C100)

Shortly after 2:00 A.M. on August 4, Isaac Davis stood outside the Borden house. He carried a brown leather bag containing a brand new hatchet and a butcher's outfit. There was no moon (?), only the stars shedding barely enough light to let

him see where he was going. He walked the few steps up to the front door, opened it and went inside. There he was met by Mr. Morse and Lizzie, who locked and bolted the door. He was then quietly led upstairs to the guest room.

THE MURDER OF MRS. BORDEN

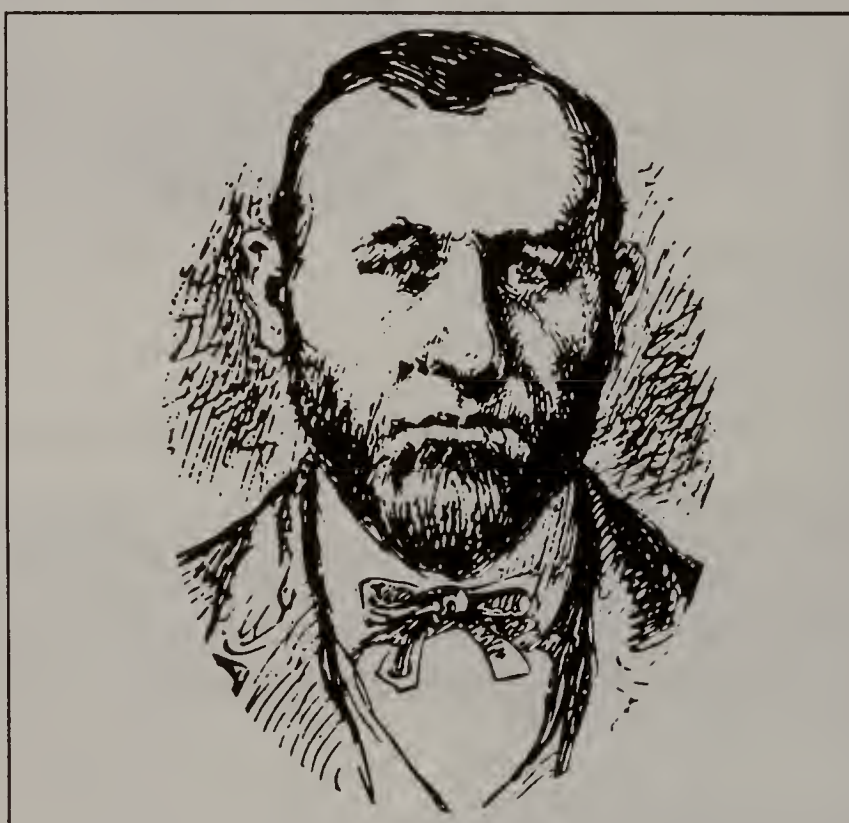
One of the reasons for Mr. Morse to stay overnight on August 4 was to make Mrs. Borden come up to the guest room, where she could be killed without anyone noticing. But the murder could hardly be done until her husband went about his morning business. The risk would be too great and he might discover that something was wrong. Bridget, from her vantage point in the kitchen, and on this particular morning being outdoors, would not have the same possibility to observe what took place in the guest room.

In her inquest testimony, Lizzie said repeatedly that her stepmother said she had already made the guest room bed and that she was going to put some pillow slips on the small pillows at the foot of the bed.^(B63) She said so when they met downstairs after Lizzie's coming down. Lizzie also told Assistant Marshal Fleet that she had last seen her stepmother in the guest room "fixing the bed", as she (Lizzie) was going down. She said it was about 9:00 A.M. ^(D361) Maybe she just made a misstatement saying that this was the last time she saw her stepmother. Officer Joseph Hyde asked Bridget Sullivan at what time Mrs. Borden had gone upstairs. Bridget replied

she thought it was a little before 9:00 and that sometime after that she came down for pillow shams.^(A38) It is doubtful, though, if Bridget could have had first-hand knowledge of what was going on in the front part of the house. Maybe she meant the back stairs or was repeating what Lizzie told her?

Why is this important? Well, if Mrs. Borden had made the guest room bed and then gone downstairs again, how could Lizzie be certain that she would again go back up to the guest room? But, perhaps, Lizzie lied saying that her stepmother told her she had already made the bed. Mr. Knowlton asked her twice to repeat the talk she had with her stepmother on Thursday morning. Both times ^(B66 and B81) Lizzie omitted her stepmother's alleged statement of having made the bed (as well as of having

(Continued on next page)



Newspaper sketch of Uncle John Vinnicum Morse, c.1892

Photograph reproduced with permission of the Fall River Historical Society.

(Continued from preceding page.)

received a note). Mr. Knowlton had to call her attention to that fact.

Todd Lunday^(T36) tried to prove that a stranger could not have killed Mrs. Borden before she had time to scream for help. But Lunday thought of an intruder operating on his own. With Lizzie's assistance I don't think there would have been a great problem. Immediately after her father left and while her stepmother was still downstairs, Lizzie would go to Emma's room where the assassin was probably hiding and tell him to take up his position in the guest room behind the door leading to the landing. He would then kill Mrs. Borden at the first opportunity after she had entered the guest room. It so happened that opportunity came when his victim was in the northern part of the room, perhaps manipulating the shutter of the northern window. She then had her back to him and he could sneak up and kill her.

As has been said already, the assassin tried to cause as much blood splash as he could. That was absolutely crucial! This together with the absence of the murder weapon would make sure that Lizzie would not be blamed for the murders. That was her only protection.

THE MURDER OF MR. BORDEN

When Mr. Borden returned, Lizzie was upstairs talking to Isaac or maybe waiting on him. When the doorbell rang she went out on the landing to see who it was calling. Just as she left for the landing Isaac said, "If it's him, don't bother to come back, just laugh out and I'll know it's him!"

This laugh of Lizzie's is not so easy to explain. The best explanation would be if she was innocent and laughed because she felt happy and that she was amused by Maggie's wrestling with the door. She is said to have had a hearty laugh. But she was not innocent and under these circumstances I can find no better explanation than the one I have given. The laugh was a signal to the killer that his victim had arrived. But still, the most natural would have been for Lizzie to go back to where the assassin was and whisper to him that her father was back.

She joined her father in the dining room. Bridget was washing the windows in the sitting room on the inside. When Mr. Borden asked about his wife Lizzie told him that her stepmother had gone out on a sick call. Had someone come to fetch her? No, she had received a note. Lizzie was well aware of the implications her allegation about the note could have if it became known. She therefore spoke in a low voice,^(D20) but then saw that Maggie was so near that she must have heard. A little later she assisted her father to lie down on the couch. In his hand he had a paper roll he had fetched from the safe in the dressing room upstairs. Lizzie had no doubt what it was - a bequest of some kind. She knew that he had lately thought of deeding some property to charity. Well, he sure could use a ticket to Paradise after all he had done! But now we must get Maggie out of the way!

She found her in the kitchen and baited her with the sale at Sargent's, where on this day dress goods could be had for as little as 8 cents a yard. Maggie said that she was going to get some and then retreated to her room. When she was gone, Lizzie returned to the dining room to perhaps resume her ironing. A

low but unmistakable sound of snoring came from the sitting room. A thought suddenly occurred to her. This would be the opportunity! Maggie would not be down for at least twenty minutes. That was far more than was needed. She went into the sitting room where her father was now sleeping deeply and then into the front hall and upstairs, where she told Isaac of the situation. She preceded him down the stairs and into the parlor. With her hand on the knob of the door leading to the sitting room she whispered to him to give her a minute to leave the house. She left by the kitchen. On the porch she turned east and headed for the barn.

Inside, she climbed the stairs into the loft and went up to the western window where she absentmindedly adjusted the slanting curtain. She heard the City Hall clock chime 11:00 A.M. Although it seemed an eternity, she had been there less than four minutes when she saw Isaac emerge through the kitchen entry with a leather bag in his hand. He walked calmly towards the gate and was soon out of sight.

Lizzie now returned to the house. She walked slowly and when she was almost at the back steps she saw a horse team trotting down the street. The coachman was looking in her direction and she felt a little relieved. She continued into the sitting room. Being prepared as to what to expect she willed herself to look away from the ghastly sight, searching for only one particular object - the deed lying on the floor beneath the couch. Collecting her train as best she could, she advanced into the room carefully, to avoid stepping in the blood on the floor. She stooped and picked up the document. Leaving as carefully as she came, she went into the kitchen and put the document into the fire.^(D394, E240:2) She saw some blood specks on her hand from the document and washed her hands in the sink.^(E302:2, L108) She then called Maggie.

CONCLUSION HOORAY !!!!!!!

You have now heard my case. The title of this analysis is *An Armchair Solution of the Borden Mystery*. Have I lived up to that? Well, yes and no. I think I have proved that there was a conspiracy between Lizzie and her uncle to kill Mr. and Mrs. Borden. With that goes that the murders must have been committed by a confederate, brought into the house by the conspirators. Almost as certain as that is my explanation of why the victims were killed in this gruesome way: To show that Lizzie could not have done it!

Lizzie's alibi, absence of blood and murder weapon, was in reality just as strong as her uncle's. It was no doubt lucky for Lizzie that her inquest testimony was not admitted as evidence in the trial. But even if it had been, the outcome of the trial would have been the same. No set of twelve good men and true would have convicted her as long as she was charged with having killed with her own hands. The prosecution knew it and had no confidence in its case.^(K74-78)

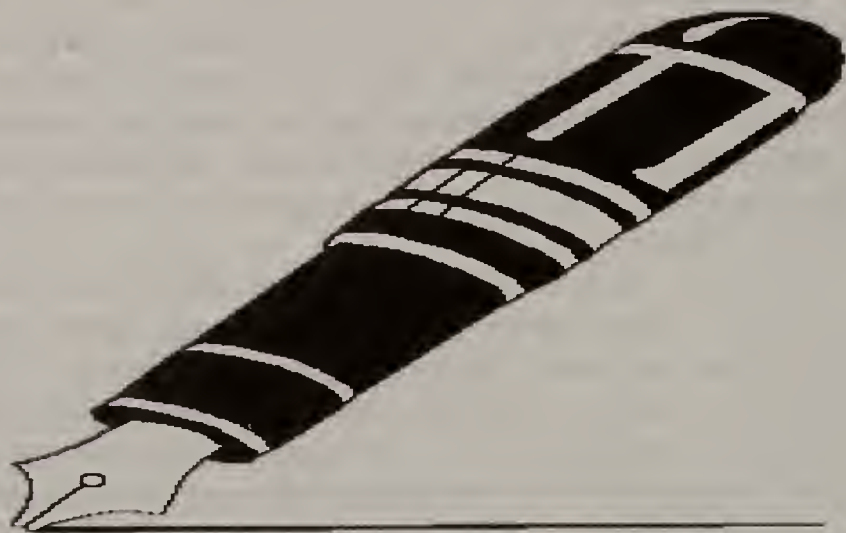
I have, however, not been able to show beyond a reasonable doubt if Emma was involved or not, still less, who held the hatchet. And what about the motive? Was it because there was incest or was it money or both? So many questions remain unanswered.

(Continued on next page)

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Maybe I should say a few words about the poison. I think my explanation of why Lizzie wanted to buy prussic acid is plausible: To have a way out if the plan should fail. Similar views were expressed at the time.^(E108:1) I agree with Mrs. Lincoln^(L61) that the family's illness the day before the murders was probably caused by warmed-over fish and not by anything willfully given to them.

With this I lay down my pen.



(Editor's note: I feel certain, Fritz, your pen is only temporarily stilled. Laying aside for a moment your written essay and the extent of your involvement, the depth of your interest is probably unmeasurable. Thank you very, very much for your outstanding contribution to the continuing saga of the Borden Hatchet-Murders.)

OF ARMCHAIRS AND BOOKS



- A Response to Fritz Adilz -

by Howard Brody

(Editor's note: It is my pleasure to welcome back Dr. Brody to these pages. An early LBQ effort of his was a review of Arnold Brown's book "Lizzie Borden: The Legend, The Truth, The Final Chapter." When I wrote to Dr. Brody requesting this review, imagine my surprise to discover that he had already written one! This article is that piece. Thank you once again sir

Let me reiterate that the opinions of authors do not necessarily reflect the views of the LBQ.)

Mr. Fritz Adilz's *An Armchair Solution of the Borden Mystery* has a number of points with which I disagree and many points which I find tellingly argued. But I am most impressed with it as a counterpoint to one unfortunate aspect of Borden "scholarship," that often the best way to become misinformed about the Borden case is to read a book about it.

Until now, those wishing to favor us with their pet theories about what *really* happened on August 4, 1892 have done so by writing a book. They then fall, to one degree or another, into the "sell my book syndrome". Whether of their own initiative, or at the behest of a timid publisher, each author concludes that the only way to be taken seriously by the reading public is to claim that his theory is correct beyond the shadow of a doubt. Thus, each book contains everything that can be said in favor of the author's theory, and almost nothing that could possibly cast any doubt upon that theory - even at the cost, sometimes, of omitting critical bits of contrary evidence, to say nothing of the dismissal of the arguments of previous authors.

The obvious result when one reads the usual book about Lizzie (of course, not including the various and valuable sourcebooks and anthologies) one reads a brief for one side of the argument and ends up totally ignorant of many facts which might incline one to support a different theory.

Mr. Adilz has generously supplied us with his detailed thinking about the case without asking us to buy a book, and so has been able to take a much more magnanimous and balanced view of the whole matter. By Borden standards, Adilz is amazingly comprehensive, conscientious, and scholarly. He is hardly unique in that he offers varieties of evidence and citations from the original case documents in support of his theory. But he goes beyond that, to frankly indicate where he thinks his theory is strongest and where he thinks the evidence is most lacking. When he engages in sheer speculation because he cannot find solid evidence to back him, he says so. And when he is aware that a cogent argument could be used to question or undermine his favored interpretation, he is careful to acknowledge that counter argument. He never stoops to suggest that an author who might disagree with him is ignorant or engaged in some sort of coverup.

I can only hope that Mr. Adilz offers a model that future authors about the Borden crimes will choose to emulate.

As to any disagreements I might offer to his theory, I have already disarmed myself in a paper previously published in the LBQ, *The Borden Case and the Irrelevance of Reason* (which was prompted in part by my reaction to an early draft of Mr. Adilz's). (Editor's note: See Page 4, LBQ, January, 1996.) I stated there that since whatever happened on August 4 in Fall River must have been a highly improbable occurrence, it is not appropriate for me to criticize anyone's theory because I find it improbable. Despite that, I find the Adilz narrative improbable. I think, for whatever little it may be worth, that he is guilty of exporting a 1990's understanding of incest and family violence into an era where those notions were totally foreign (even though the acts themselves no doubt occurred, and may indeed have occurred frequently). I cannot picture Victorian women confiding in an older male relative about acts of incest; and I cannot imagine a conversation between an elderly uncle and a middle-aged niece that is anything remotely like the dialogue Adilz places in the mouths of John Morse and Lizzie.

But the beauty of Adilz's account is that my own reservations are of no consequence - the material is all there for readers to judge for themselves.



Reviewed by Denise Noe

(Editor's note: A review of Arnold Brown's "Lizzie Borden: The Legend, The Truth, The Final Chapter," written by Ms. Noe, was forwarded to the LBQ in 1994. Unfortunately, it has not been feasible to publish it since Mr. Brown's book had been previously reviewed and discussed. Be that as it may, she immediately came to mind for Fritz's work. I was pleased she accepted my written request.

Ms. Noe has been published in "The Humanist Artisan Chrysalis Quarterly," "Exquisite Corpse," "Circuit Traces," "Metis," "Scapes," "The Gulf War Anthology," "Light," "Musk Gland Sally," "The Stake," "Attitude Problem," "The Arizona Unconservative," "The Village Writer," "Paper Bag Catalyst," "Gray Areas," "Nuthouse," "The Pink Chameleon," and many others.

Her major interests are dinosaurs, ape-language experiments and social welfare issues, though not necessarily in that order. We hope that Ms. Noe will continue to grace the pages of the "Lizzie Borden Quarterly."

Let me reiterate that the opinions of authors do not necessarily reflect the views of the LBQ.)

Perhaps Alexander Woolcott best captured the reason for the enduring fascination of the Lizzie Borden case when he wrote that both the hypothesis of Lizzie's guilt - and the opposite one of her innocence - appear to strain credibility. "... there were those who felt it was not humanly possible for this young woman to have accomplished the murder and effaced every evidence of her guilt in the few fleeting moments when no eye was on her."

Woolcott went on to say that other observers found it even harder to believe that "another person could have entered, struck, and gone his way without Lizzie seeing or hearing him."^(S,305)

Fritz Adilz finds the evidence against Lizzie overwhelming. He also finds the evidence for her insurmountable. Like most observers, Adilz makes too much of Lizzie's post-killing cleanliness. The crime scene photos, reproduced in David Kent's *Forty Whacks* do not show either room as blood-splattered; rather, they are remarkably sanitary. ^(K)

But that still leaves the matter of the undiscovered murder weapon and the supposed killer with every hair in place.

Adilz tries to reconcile these disparate positions with the conclusion that Lizzie conspired in these killings - which were perpetrated by another. This alternative, of course, settles one set of improbabilities only to open up a universe of others.

Adilz believes her chief co-conspirator was her Uncle John - who also did not kill with his own hands. Now things are getting stretched. When Adilz stretches it to include no less than five people - Lizzie, Uncle John, Emma, Isaac Davis (the killer), plus an unnamed party who helped spirit said Davis away - well! this reviewer had to catch her breath.

The linchpin of his case is that there was a conspiracy between Uncle John and Miss Lizzie.

Morse's behavior, as chronicled by Adilz, is indeed perplexing. He visited the Borden's fairly frequently; therefore, his

coming there the day prior to the killings seems to me just a coincidence. That he gave two distinct reasons for it lifts an eyebrow.

But that he would arrive at the home of his nieces and brother-in-law, see a huge crowd milling around, and fail to inquire as to what the fuss was about is strange. That he reacted to this alarming sight by heading for the backyard to munch on some pears leaves the reader flabbergasted.

(An odd role is played by pears in the Borden saga. Eating them was the reason Lizzie missed her father's murder. If this family could be taken as a guideline, it must have been the pear, not the apple, which tempted Eve!)

This reviewer can come up with no explanation for Uncle John's actions - and non-actions - since Adilz has anticipated and answered the only obvious one, i.e., that Morse was "so deeply in thought that he was lost to the world." He notes that Uncle John Morse was no absent-minded professor but an "outdoors" type who paid close attention to his surroundings.

Nevertheless, I don't think it proves complicity in murder.

Lizzie's answer to question #126, about when Uncle John visited, was confused because the question was phrased in a confusing manner. More important, Adilz makes an excellent point when he says that "if Lizzie and her uncle had an agent committing the murders for them, one would expect them to have as airtight an alibi as possible" - which Lizzie most certainly did not!

The "secluded life" that Emma led after the murders - and before them - is as consistent with an introverted personality as it is with a "tormented conscience." Adilz is correct to see the convulsive crying which ended Emma's interview with Mr. Maguire as due to "extreme agony" but the simplest reading is that it expressed the pain of a shy woman living under the black cloud of notoriety.

The primary problem with Fritz Adilz's *Armchair Solution of the Borden Mystery* is enunciated by the author himself with the apt adage "too many cooks spoil the broth." To believe that no less than five villains conspired in the Borden murders would require powerful evidence indeed.

Adilz says there is "not much" to "say that Isaac Davis wielded the hatchet." There is, in fact, nothing. His essay now becomes glutted with "maybes" and "might-have-beens." Once he starts writing about Davis and the nameless, faceless, phantom who helped him get away, Adilz is no longer theorizing, but fictionalizing. He has left broth behind and is serving up balderdash.

(Editor's note: It seems as though an epoch has come to an end. Since the Summer 1994 Lizzie Borden Quarterly, we have been piqued, entertained and challenged by Fritz Adilz. Now, Denise Noe and Howard Brody have offered their perspectives. Also, in case you missed it, Arnold Brown, one of the noted Lizzie chroniclers, added some words of his own in a letter to the editor.)

LIZZIE BORDEN PANEL DISCUSSION AND BOOKSIGNING

Book People Book Store
Austin, Texas - January 27, 1996

by Robert A. Flynn

(Editor's note: As most of us know, Mr. Flynn is the premiere Miss Lizbeth bookseller. His "King Philip Publishing Company" is known far and wide as the most likely place to find that long sought-after Lizzie-Lore book. And not only that, he himself is an author and a respected authority on the Borden Hatchet-Murders. His opinion is sought and valued.)

Thanks to Lizzie Borden aficionado, William Oakey of Austin and *Book People Book Store*, Austin, Texas, the Capitol city heard all about the baffling case from two well-known experts, Professor Joyce G. Williams, PhD. of Indiana University, and Robert A. Flynn, author and publisher. Dr. Williams is the co-author of the renowned book *Lizzie Borden: A Case Book of Family and Crime in the 1890's*.

Also invited to participate was Arnold Brown, author of the controversial book *The Legend, the Truth, the Final Chapter*, who sent his regrets.

Nevertheless, Brown's book was prominently displayed and discussed along with William's book, David Kent's books, Robert and Anita Flynn's King Philip publications, Bristol Community College publication *Proceedings* and others.

The affair was the culmination of a month-long Lizzie Borden book promotion held on Saturday, January 27 simultaneously with a program to support education and prevention of family violence in Austin.

Sales of all books on the case were brisk and Flynn and Williams were pleased to autograph many for the attendees.

The event drew several hundred people to the unique store, the largest in the Austin area boasting of having more books than the Austin Public Library. The store has four floors including an amphitheater and coffee house. It is the policy of the store to invite on a regular basis well-known authors to participate in similar round table discussions. In the past, they have hosted such notables as G. Gordon Liddy, Anne Rice, Naomi Judd, Timothy Leary and others.

With Oakey as moderator, Williams and Flynn made initial presentations based on their writings, research and published books. The meeting lasted 2½ hours and was then opened to questions. The questions evoked much discussion, theories and opinions by both the audience and panel. Comparison to the O.J. Simpson case was on the minds of many, as expected.

Many in the audience were familiar with the event, having seen the Elizabeth Montgomery portrayal of Lizzie on TV. One educated gentleman who never heard of the case commented, "How grisly!"

One of the notables in attendance, Liz Carpenter, former press secretary to Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, was very much aware of the case and attended with a Borden relative connected to Hartley Howe of Westport, Mass. Ms. Carpenter even knew the words to Michael Brown's song "You Can't Chop Your Pappa Up in Massachusetts."

The crime was not solved but Fall River, The Fall River Historical Society and 92 Second Street may have a few more visitors from Texas this year.

The program was carried live on radio and on the World Wide Internet System.

The last question posed to Flynn and Williams was, "If handed a box in front of a roaring fire, and told that the box contained the solution to the Borden case, what would you do?" Both answered "Open the Box!"



"Liz" Carpenter, Joyce G. Williams and Robert A. Flynn

Photograph reproduced courtesy of Robert A. Flynn.

Lizzie on the Internet!

Taking a Whack at Lizzie Borden

They called it "the trial of the century." The century they were talking about was the 19th. The trial they were talking about was that of Lizzie Borden, charged in 1892 with killing her father and stepmother with an ax. Austinite Bill Oakey became interested in the case when he saw a rebroadcast of a 1975 TV movie called "The Legend of Lizzie Borden." As he looked into the case, he noticed parallels between Lizzie's trial and the trial of *this* century, that of O.J. Simpson. Both Lizzie and O.J. had "the best defense money could buy." Both were found not guilty but found the court of public opinion to be much less forgiving.

Oakey is moderating a discussion on "The Trial of the Century" at 2 p.m. Saturday at Book People, 603 N. Lamar Blvd. Robert Flynn, whose King Philip Publishing Co. deals in restored reprints of 1890's books and collections of newspaper clippings about the case, will participate in the discussion, as will Joyce Williams, an Indiana University professor who has penned a book on Borden.

Adding a high-tech twist to a century-old crime is Austin Internet service provider Eden Matrix, which will be broadcasting the event live onto the Internet using the CU-SeeMe video teleconferencing software. Download the latest version of CU-SeeMe from Cornell University at "[ftp://cu-seeme.cornell.edu/pub/cu-seeme](http://cu-seeme.cornell.edu/pub/cu-seeme)" or look at the CU-SeeMe Web site at: "<http://www.cu-seeme.cornell.edu>." The Eden Matrix Web site has more info on the bookstore event: "<http://www.eden.com/new/new.html>".

Book People is sponsoring a Lizzie Borden trivia contest (the contest questions are posted on the Eden Matrix site) and a "Who Done It" essay contest. And "just to be sure that no one is supporting murder and mayhem here," as Oakey puts it.

- Harley Jebens,
Austin American-Statesman Staff
January 25, 1996

(Continued from Page 1.)

It is estimated that, at their peak, close to 1,500 people were involved in the workings of the mines. The Great Famine, from 1845 to approximately 1848, had its effect on the Allihies Parish causing forced emigration. The vast majority of these people looked for copper-mining possibilities in America. They emigrated to copper-mining areas in Butte, Montana, Salt Lake City, Utah, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona and Michigan. In time many settled in areas like New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Washington state and California, as well as various parts of Britain and Australia. The population of the Allihies Parish decreased from 6,061 in 1841 to 5,000 in 1851 and reduced the number of inhabited houses from 994 to 743.

ENTER BRIDGET

It was amidst these God-given physical beauties, and shaped by the forces of her time, that Bridget O'Sullivan was born in March, 1864 in the Townland of Billerough, Parish of Allihies, Beara Peninsula, County Cork, Ireland. (The *O'* prefix simply means *of* and can be removed or added at will.) Her parents were Eugene O'Sullivan, known by his G  lic name of Owen (or Eoin), and Margaret O'Leary O'Sullivan. Bridget was baptized on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1864 by Father James Irwin. Her Godparents were Denis Sullivan and Catherine Leary.

Bridget emigrated to the United States in 1883 at the age of 19. She was hired by the Borden family in 1890 and had worked for them 2½ years when the Borden hatchet-murders occurred. Following this terrifying experience, she left Fall River and circa 1896 moved to Anaconda, Montana, nearby Butte, and became a part of the Allihies Mines community in residence. Bridget married a Smelterman named John E. Sullivan who died in 1939. Shortly after John's death, she moved in with her niece, Mrs. Mary (Bantry Tim) Sullivan at 112 East Wilman Street in Butte, Montana. Mary was known in Butte as Dursey Mary, since she had been born on Dursey Island off the western tip of the Beara Peninsula. Bridget died on Holy Thursday, March 25, 1948, at the age of 84. She was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Anaconda.

AFTER BRIDGET

Two of Bridget's grandnephews were extremely brave men. Tim "Sox" Sullivan served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and joined the Anaconda police force following his discharge. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant. On Sunday night, February 10, 1985 at the age of fifty-four, he was shot to death after answering a family disturbance call. "Sox" had been one of the most popular police officers ever in Anaconda. He had coached local football and basketball teams for more than twenty years. Some two thousand people attended the funeral. These included four hundred law enforcement officers from across the state of Montana and as far away as Spokane, Washington. Tim's older brother, Bernard from Butte, served in the U.S. Army

during World War II and was awarded both the Purple Heart and Silver Star.

THE END OF THE ERA

Following a drop of £20 (pounds) per ton in the price of copper, the Allihies Mines were closed on Saturday, June 21, 1930. The area had also been hit badly by the failure of the mackerel fishing industry in 1929. Many more people emigrated after these two setbacks. On March 8, 1957 the State requisitioned 9,065 acres embracing 14 townlands of mining interests in Allihies. The Emerald Isle Mining Company, Ltd. applied to the Minister for a State mining lease to carry out the exploratory work. Electricity and more modern machinery made life much easier for the workers, but the venture was short-lived. The Allihies Copper Mines closed for the last time in 1962.

(Related data on next page)



Bridget Sullivan Portrait Photograph
Photograph reproduced courtesy of the Fall River Historical Society.

Tim O'Leary from Tillickafinne, Dursey and his wife Mary O'Sullivan gave birth to Margaret O'Leary.

Owen (or Eugene) O'Sullivan married Margaret O'Leary. Owen and Margaret had twelve children.

1. March, 1853:
Denis, married Honora O'Sullivan, daughter of Mick O'Sullivan and Mary Harrington, Canalmore.
2. July 1854:
Timothy. No further genealogical information is available at this time.
3. Unknown date.
Eugene, married his third cousin Margaret O'Sullivan, daughter of Daniel O'Sullivan and Ellen O'Sullivan, Billerough.
4. June 1858:
Mary, died young, date unknown.
5. July 1860:
Johanna, died young, date unknown.
6. March, 1862:
Cait (or Catherine) married Eugene O'Sullivan, son of Mark O'Sullivan and Anna Newman, Kilmichael, Dursey Island.
7. March, 1864.
Bridget O'Sullivan
8. May, 1867:
Ellen. No further genealogical information is available at this time.
9. January, 1869:
Mary. (This is the second sibling named Mary. See June, 1858 entry.) No further genealogical information is available at this time.
10. April, 1872:
Philip, a twin to Seamus (or James). No further genealogical information is available at this time.
11. April, 1872:
Seamus (or James), a twin to Philip. Seamus was married twice. His first wife was Honora McCarthy, daughter of Daniel McCarthy and Honora Conroy, Billerough. His second wife was Margaret Morley, daughter of Patrick Morley and Kate O'Shea, Ballaghbue.
12. January, 1874.
Johanna. (This is the second sibling named Johanna. See July, 1860 entry.) No further genealogical information is available at this time.

Riobard O'Dwyer is the son of Liam O'Dwyer and Ella Mae Quille, Ardgroom Village, Castletownbere, County Cork, Ireland. Liam is the author of the book *Beara In Irish History* and was Commandant of the Beara Battalion, 3rd West Cork Brigade of the Irish Republican Army during the War of Independence. Mr. O'Dwyer, Senior, died in 1983 at age 87.

Riobard was born in Detroit, Michigan on May 30, 1932. In 1945 he moved to Ardgroom Village and attended the National School there. He began his Secondary School education at Rochestown Capuchin Franciscan College, Cork in September, 1947 and did his Honours Leaving Cert in June, 1950. This resulted in his being called to St. Patrick's Teachers' Training College in Drumcondra, Dublin. He progressed from a National Teacher, in 1952 to Principal Teacher of Kilmacowen National School in 1954 and Principal Teacher of Urhan National School in June, 1967.

Mr. O'Dwyer achieved national sports fame in Ireland. He was All-Ireland Hop-Step and Jump (or triple jump) champion seven years and the only Irishman ever to win this record seven times and also five times in successive years. The Hop-Step and Jump event in athletics is now known in more modern, fanciful terms as the *Triple Jump*. It is a national, international, Olympic Games and World Championship event. He was Chief Irish Coach for the Hop-Step and Jump. He has also won several Irish football medals and in 1976 published the G.A.A. History Book *50 Years of Beara Football*.

In the music field, Riobard was finalist in the All-Ireland Feadh Ceoil and Oireachtas accordeon championships and broadcasts Irish Dance Music over Radio Eireann.

Riobard is a world renowned genealogist. His first genealogical book, *"Who Were My Ancestors? Eyerries Parish,"* was published in 1976. This marked the first time that so deep a study of a whole parish was published. Subsequent *"Who Were My Ancestors?"* genealogical series of published books include *"Allihies (Copper Mines) Parish," "Bere Island Parish," "Castletown Parish," "Glengarriff/Bonane Parrish"* and *"Adrigole Parish."* In addition, he was instrumental in producing the 1995 Irish Documentary Film *From Beara to Butte (Montana)*. The *Allihies (Copper Mines) Parish* book and Mr. O'Dwyer's written communications provided the source material for the *Bridget Sullivan, Before and After* article.

Mr. O'Dwyer currently lives in Eyerries Village, Beara Peninsula, County Cork, Ireland. Numerous people from the Beara Peninsula moved to Fall River, New Bedford, Boston and virtually every other area in Massachusetts. There are thousands of people with Beara Peninsula ancestry scattered throughout the United States. Those interested in tracing their ancestry can write to Mr. O'Dwyer at the above address. Please include as many details as possible, including approximate ages.

LIZBITS

by Neilson Caplain

THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY

We Lizzie Borden fans always thought that our gal was involved in *the* Crime of the Century. Even the very first chronicler, Mr. Edwin H. Porter, trumpeted on the title page of his *Fall River Tragedy*, that the Lizzie Borden murders were the "most famous crime of the century." However, "not so," said Mr. Henry M. Hunt, who boldly titled his book published in 1889 *The Crime of the Century*. In this book, just as in the case of the Borden murders, the felons "have never been established beyond doubt, nor the circumstances fully explained, and many theories were put forward for years afterward."⁽¹⁾ There was even a hatcheted skull, but it suffered only five whacks. Did Lizzie read about it and improve on that number?

A YEAR FOR MURDER

In the memorable year of 1892, the Borden murders were not the only bizarre homicides perpetrated on unsuspecting victims. Consider one that took place over a mere scrap of paper - that scrap being the very rare two-cent Hawaiian Missionary stamp of 1851. In 1892, Gaston Leroux, the Parisian owner of the stamp, was murdered. An astute detective determined that the stamp was missing from the victim's collection. Posing as a philatelist, he narrowed his search for the killer to one, Hector Giroux, who needed the item to complete a series. How then could Giroux fill that empty space in his album, but murder the man who wouldn't sell the stamp to him?⁽²⁾

NOTES ON EDMUND LESTER PEARSON

In approximately 1922, Pearson made the acquaintance of William Roughead, Britain's foremost writer on the criminal scene. The two engaged in protracted correspondence and Pearson visited him in Edinburgh in 1930. Their letters, marked by mutual respect and a shared sense of humor, reveal kindred spirits in their devotion to Lizzie. Roughead was enchanted with the Fall River double murders, and unstinted in his praise of Pearson's works.⁽³⁾

In William Roughead's *Chronicles of Murder*, by Richard Whittington-Egan, Pearson is delineated as a Puritan in his attitude toward crime and criminals and a staunch believer in capital punishment. He was known in New York as a wit and raconteur, celebrated for his urbanity and respected for his deep-rooted beliefs.

An evaluation of Pearson and his work is given by Gerald Gross in his *Masterpieces of Murder*⁴, as follows: "Edmund Pearson is acclaimed as the greatest true-crime essayist America has ever produced. There is virtually nothing in the literature of crime in the English language to rival the urbanity, wit, sharpness, eloquence and fascination of Pearson's narratives and scrutinies of memorable crimes --- displaying his dry, ironic wit, vivid narrative power and extraordinary insight into criminal

philosophy and psychology."

Of his personal attributes, Gross described Pearson as, "a New England gentleman to the core, well-bred, bookish, possessed of a dry wit, personal dignity, honour and morality."

Source References

¹ This information and quote were taken from the novel, *The Devil's Card*, by Mary Maher, published 1992 by St. Martin's Press.

² This information was gleaned from *The Post Rider*, a publication of the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum.

³ Much of the correspondence between the two writers is detailed verbatim in William Roughead's *Chronicles of Murder*, by Richard Whittington-Egan, published 1991 by Lochar Publishing, Ltd., Moffat, Scotland.

⁴ Gerald Cross, *Masterpieces of Murder*, Boston, Massachusetts, Little, Brown & Co., 1963. Contains *The Pearson-Radin Controversy Over the Guilt of Lizzie Borden* and two essays previously published by Edmund Pearson, in addition to the Gerard Cross original essay.



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Fall River, MA 02721

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COMING EVENTS

THE LIZZIE BORDEN BED & BREAKFAST/MUSEUM

by Martha L. McGinn

(Editor's note: What can I say? The entire readership is indebted to Ms. McGinn and her partner Ron Evans for making the Second Street house available to sight and sound. As a teenager, Ms. McGinn lived there. And if that were not enough, she and her partner print the LBQ! Please see their advertisement on the back cover.)

The former home of Lizzie Borden and site of the infamous ax-murders of Andrew and Abby Borden will open August 4, 1996, as a bed and breakfast/museum. After considering many options and listening to legions of followers of the Borden legend, we decided to offer a unique opportunity - to spend a



92 Second Street yesterday
Photograph reproduced courtesy of the Fall River Historical Society.

night or two in the house at 92 Second Street, Fall River. We hope to provide an atmosphere where guests will feel welcome, yet also get a feel of how it was to live in this house in 1892. Where possible, we are replicating the furniture, carpeting, wallpaper and accent pieces the Bordens had decorating their home. We have purchased antique bedroom sets, sitting room and parlor furniture, and are having an antique wood-cooking stove converted on which to cook our mutton broth and bake our sugar cookies!

The first floor will be open to all guests as a common area. The sitting room, where Andrew met his fate, will have an antique black horsehair sofa where our guests can sit and read the Providence Journal. Books and videos about the Borden legend will be available for browsing and guests will be encouraged to share their own theories on the murders. The parlor also will be a comfortable, but more formal room, which we hope our guests will use more than the Bordens did! The dining room will be used in the mornings for those of our guests who made it through the night to enjoy a hot breakfast, reminiscent of the fare the Borden family ate the morning of the murders.

The second floor of the home will have three rooms for rent. Our most requested room is the John V. Morse guest room, where Abby Durfee Borden was killed. We also have Lizzie's and Emma's bedrooms available which will rent as a suite, because as anyone who has looked at a floor plan of the house knows, there are no corridors in this house of doors, and one must walk through Lizzie's room to get to Emma's. Next to Lizzie and Emma's suite is the bedroom and dressing room of the elder Bordens. This room is also a suite and has its own private bath.

The third floor will have a small sitting area on the landing, where guests are encouraged to read, play a game of checkers or try to contact a spirit with an original wooden Ouija board made by William Fuld, the inventor and original manufacturer. Three rooms also are available for rent on this floor. One room is where the maid Bridget Sullivan resided. The other two large



92 Second Street today
Photograph reproduced courtesy of Jeannine H. Bertolet.

rooms will be named in honor of Andrew Jennings, one of Lizzie's defense attorneys, and the other after Hosea Knowlton, the prosecutor.

There will be tours offered during daytime hours for children and those too faint of heart to spend the night. Regretfully, children under twelve will not be allowed to stay overnight for insurance reasons and the fact that many of the antiques we have acquired are not replaceable. We do plan to offer special rates for group tours of school children.

Right now, things look to be on schedule, and if we can pull it all together on time, there will be a birthday party for Lizzie July 19 and 20. Tickets will be in limited supply, so anyone interested in attending is encouraged to contact us as soon as possible to be on the guest list. We can be reached at Lizzie's telephone/fax number 508-675-7333.

We are looking forward to the opening with great anticipation and hope our goal of offering a night of history, mystery and fun will live on in the minds of those who come, much like the legend of Lizzie herself has lived on.

(More Coming Events on next page)

COMING EVENTS

1996 FESTIVAL SEASON ANNOUNCED AT GLIMMERGLASS OPERA

COOPERSTOWN, NY. General Director Paul Kellogg has announced the repertory for the 1996 Festival Season at *Glimmerglass Opera*. Four new productions of works by Cavalli, Mozart, Donizetti, and American composer Jack Beeson will run at The Alice Busch Opera Theater in Cooperstown.

Kellogg said, "The 22nd Festival Season promises to be our most interesting and varied ever. The repertory will span four centuries of operatic performance, from Cavalli's 17th-century masterpiece *La Calisto* to Jack Beeson's unjustly neglected 20th-century work *Lizzie Borden*."

The 1996 Season will open on July 5 with Jack Beeson's *Lizzie Borden*, the work's first performance in this country by a professional opera company since 1976. It will be directed by Rhoda Levine in her *Glimmerglass Opera* debut with sets by John Conklin, costumes by Constance Hoffman and lighting by Mark L. McCullough; Stewart Robertson conducts.

Glimmerglass Opera is located on the shores of Otsego Lake in Cooperstown, New York. The company's innovative productions of both familiar and rarely performed works, hailed as "opera on a level of taste, imagination and musicality that would do any of the world's most celebrated opera houses proud," (*TIME*), have an immense appeal for opera lovers everywhere.

PRINCESS MAPLECROFT



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THE

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What's In A Name?:

SOME OTHER BORDENS

by Kenneth M. Champlin

(Editor's note: We are pleased to welcome back Mr. Champlin to our pages. His previous article about Fall River's Oak Grove Cemetery "The Shadows Have Fallen and They Wait for the Day" was touching and sensitive. (LBQ, Volume II, Number 6, Page 15) In this issue he brings to life the forbearers of Miss Lizzie A. Borden, provides extensive commentary and a two-page genealogical chart. As with last month's front-page article, (Bridget Sullivan, Before and After) much can be discerned about a person through the genetic factors that shaped their being ...)

Much has been written about the immediate family of Lizzie Borden. But who were Miss Borden's forbearers? According to local conjecture, the Andrew J. Borden family of 92 Second Street was only distantly related to other Fall River Bordens of wealth and influence. Perhaps so, but not totally removed.

In 1982, *Spinner, People and Culture in Southeastern Massachusetts* (Volume II, 1982) published two articles on Lizzie Borden. One was a panel discussion, accompanied by a speculative memoir of Miss Borden. As a third piece, I contributed a Borden family genealogy which was included as an insert on page 89.



Miss Lizzie Andrew Borden c.1877
Photograph reproduced courtesy of the Fall River Historical Society.

SECOND STREET BEGINNINGS

Cook Borden's map of 1812, which was probably a redrawing of an older map, shows a path called "Foot path leading to Stafford Road". The path ran uphill from the house of Richard Borden to a strip of cultivated land in the middle of a broad highway. The origins of Second Street may have begun with this footpath. The broad highway is known today as Plymouth Avenue. Indeed, the paths which provide access to the Richard Borden farm in 1812 may have later

evolved into Second, Hartwell and Borden Streets.

Around this time the population of the village of Troy, as Fall River was so named from 1804 to 1834, was about 1300. The homestead of Richard Borden stood on South Main, near Borden Street. Before the construction of the first mills in Fall River, weaving was carried on in local farmhouses. Nearly every farmer's wife in the village derived an income from weaving. Patty Bowen Borden, Mrs. Richard Borden, owned a loom with big oak beams and bars. The loom was operated by foot treadles, and Mrs. Borden ran the loom on shares with a neighbor. Young Hannah Borden began weaving on her mother's loom in 1811, when she was eight years old.

ANDREW'S AUNT HANNAH

Hannah was Andrew's aunt. In 1817, when she was 14, Hannah persuaded her father, Richard, to allow her to work in the Yellow Mill. The "Yellow Mill", the earliest Fall River Manufactory mill, was located on the lower falls below Main Street. Mr. Borden was a large stockholder in the Fall River Manufactory. Late in her life, in an interview with the *Fall River Evening Globe*, February 27, 1889, she told of weaving on the large, awkward looms which more often created a tangled

(Continued on Page 14.)

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

A Different Menu

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| Using Lizzie in the Classroom <i>by Paul Dennis Hoffman</i> | Page 3. |
| Spotlight on Mary Cusack <i>by Mary T. Cusack</i> | Page 6. |
| Sherlock Holmes and the Lizzie Borden Connection Part One <i>by William Schley-Ulrich</i> | Page 8. |

Standard Fare

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MISS LIZBETH BORDEN'S EDITOR SPEAKS

We are pleased to introduce a new genre to the pages of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* this month. Surely, it must be world-wide news when our famous lady with a mystery meets the greatest mystery solver of all time, none other than Mr. Sherlock Holmes himself! Although a serialized novella, it will soon become apparent that the author's research would grace any 'serious' piece. Read and enjoy!

Well, we finally have an E-Mail address. You may electronically touch us at Bertolet@msn.com. In addition, we are pursuing our own *LBQ* Internet World Wide Web home site! More later ...

Overseas postage charges have caused us to scream in terror! This is worse than murder! We finally had to give up the ghost and raise prices for non-USA subscribers. The new rates are posted in the next column.

Oh yes, please check your label on the last page. If you see **Remaining Issues: 0**, don't let the hatchet chop you off from our fun and frolic. We save money by not mailing expiration notices. Your cooperation is requested. Renew your subscription today!

Maynard F. Bertolet

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

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USING LIZZIE IN THE CLASSROOM

By Paul Dennis Hoffman

(Editor's note: Dr. Hoffman practices what he preaches ... he has indeed taught his "Lizzie" course in his classroom. This concept opens a whole new door of opportunity for future generations of "Lizzie Experts." We may hear more from Dennis in the future, same time, same station!)

It appears that Lizzie Borden was not a good student while at Fall River High School in Fall River, Massachusetts. She has been described as quiet, disinterested, average. What, then, would be her thoughts if she knew that one hundred years after the famous double murders of her father and stepmother her story would be used as a part of a high school course in American history?

The Borden murders continue to attract attention today not only because they are gruesome and, in a legal sense, unsolved, but also because knowledge about the killings and subsequent trial reveals to those studying the crime a key to a fascinating era in the history of the United States. During this exciting period of American history, the super-rich had style as well as money. Mega-corporations like Carnegie Steel, John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil, the New York Central Railroad and financier J.P. Morgan's banks ruled American political as well as economic life. It was an era of brutal and often unrelenting competition in which Charles Darwin's biological theory of "survival of the fittest" was tested in the marketplace. It was also a time of unashamed and unconstrained patriotism when most Americans had an unconditional pride in the United States and a faith that their nation could do no wrong.

THE GILDED AGE

This colorful and patriotic period of America's past was known as the Gilded Age. It lasted for twenty-five years, from 1877 when President Rutherford B. Hayes removed the last Union troops of occupation from the recently defeated southern Confederacy until 1901, when Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in as the nation's twenty-sixth Chief Executive upon the assassination of William McKinley. The era was marked by a Victorian sense of morality, fierce business competition and a successful armed conflict, the Spanish-American War, which won for the United States an empire that stretched from Puerto Rico in the Caribbean to the Philippine Islands in the Pacific.

What do the Gilded Age's moral code, business competition and America's "splendid little war" have in common with the Borden murders? The Victorian sense of morals and justice led to both Lizzie Borden's acquittal and America's entrance into Cuba's civil war to help that Spanish colony win freedom from

her mother country. Business competition was a Darwinian life-or-death struggle in every economic endeavor. In the newspaper industry, this competition was characterized by the attempt to sell, in every city that had more than one newspaper, a greater number of copies of the daily press than one's rivals. This was often done through a journalistic style of reporting known as "Yellow Journalism".

YELLOW JOURNALISM

"Yellow Journalism" was a sensationalistic style of newspaper reporting with only one objective: to increase circulation, and therefore, be able to charge higher rates to advertisers. Gimmicks like contests with cash prizes, puzzles and comic strips were used to sell papers, the price of which had recently been lowered to one cent. Attention-grabbing headlines in large type were employed to dazzle potential newspaper buyers. Headlined stories changed from the reprinting of political speeches and foreign dispatches to catastrophic railroad and steamship accidents, sensational robberies, bloody murders and brutal retaliation for political revolution.

By January, 1898, most of the "Yellow" journals, led by newspapers owned by Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst, highlighted rapes, torture and executions of Cuban rebels by their Spanish overlords. These stories outraged American readers and helped encourage the McKinley Administration in Washington, D.C. to declare war on Spain on April 25 of that year. Six years earlier, in 1892, the same lurid attention of the "Yellow Press" had transformed the Borden incident into one of the most sensational murder trials of the nineteenth century.



THE BORDEN CASE TODAY

The Borden case undoubtedly has a strong lure for many people today. Some are attracted to the complexity of the case, others to the brutality and still others are taken by the fact that the murders were never solved to the satisfaction of the public at large. Even junior and senior high school students, many of whom show little interest in anything that does not have a screen or computer keys, are drawn to the case. Because of this, the Borden mystery is an effective way to introduce students to the Gilded Age and thus to "Yellow Journalism," the Spanish-American War and the way average citizens conducted themselves in the "Naughty Nineties."

(Continued on Page 18.)

THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN

by Lisa Zawadzki

Hello again, loyal readers! I feel really famous since the last issue of the *LBQ* with that nice write-up on me. Famous or not, it is once again time for another installment of the *Bibliographic Borden*. I have some new items for everyone to enjoy.

Eaton, William J.,
JUST LIKE O.J.'S TRIAL, BUT WITHOUT KATO
American Journalism Review, December 1995: 12.

Comparing the Borden and Simpson trials has been a popular pastime of late. The many similarities were reviewed in this interesting article. Eaton opened with a quote about Lizzie's trial concerning the public's fascination with "the gruesome details". It could have easily been referring to the Simpson case more than 90 years later.

The parallels between the two cases included lots of media coverage, high-priced lawyers, dubious alibis, poor police work, and quick-deciding juries. The two defendants were each accused of vicious murders of family members. Both Lizzie and O.J. have become larger than life; not guilty in the courts but strongly suspected in popular opinion.

This article gave a good, quick comparison of the two situations. At the conclusion, the author wondered if O.J. will have plays and ballets written about him. Time will tell.

Weafer, Don,
THE LONG SILENCE OF LIZZIE BORDEN
Yankee, June 1996: 52-57, 123.

Lizzie's quiet life after the trial makes a captivating topic. Weafer described the 34 years following her release from jail. Lizzie was ostracized, gossiped about, and watched by her Fall River neighbors. Yet she stayed in the city, bought a fine home, and went into what the author accurately described as "sort of internal exile."

Her appearances in the newspapers were mentioned; the little shoplifting incident, Emma's interview, and the annual "Globe" editorial on the anniversary of the murders. Yet she still kept to herself. The details of her death and will were described. This article provided no new information on the later life of Lizzie Borden, but was a well-done summary of a part of her life that many writers dismiss in one or two lines. There were also some nice photographs, especially the one of Maplecroft.

Adler, Gabriela Schalow
OUR BELOVED LIZZIE;
CONSTRUCTING AN AMERICAN LEGEND
Kingston, R.I. : University of Rhode Island, 1995.

This complex work was a dissertation towards a Phd. in philosophy in English. It examined the many ways Lizzie has been portrayed by a wide variety of writers. Adler looked at both fictional works and non-fiction "true crime" works. She was struck by the variety and depth of different portrayals and the perspectives that could be inspired by the same person and set of events.

The author also discussed how the interpretations have reflected the period in which they were written. A century ago Lizzie was defended as a helpless maiden and now people are wondering if she was an incest victim. Lizzie has managed over time to become many things to many people.

Great detail was given to examining the different works on the case. Adler broke them up into genres; biographical "true crime" texts, Lizzie and the media, and the many fictional speculations about Miss Borden. The work concluded with a bibliography.

I feel as though I am not doing this work justice; it was much more complicated and involved than I am able to describe in a few paragraphs. It is well worth seeking out for a more thorough examination than I am able to provide.

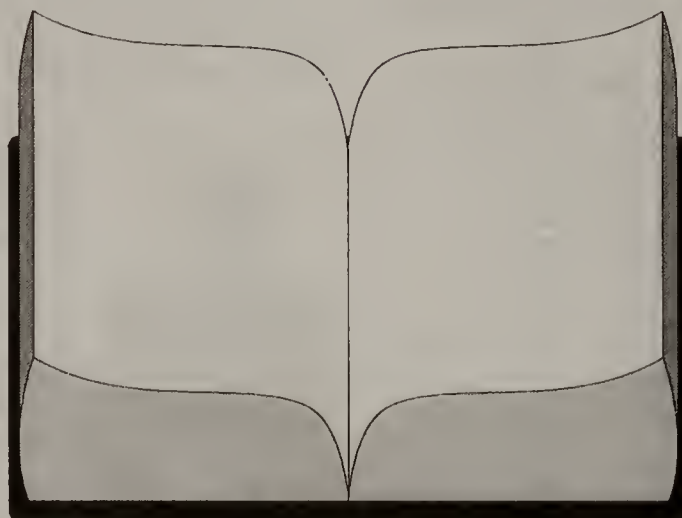
Lincoln, Victoria,
A PRIVATE DISGRACE:
LIZZIE BORDEN BY DAYLIGHT
New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1967.
Paperback eds. New York : Pyramid Books, 1969.
New York : International Polygonics, 1986.

In last issue's interview of me, I listed this book as one of my favorites. Chances are, you've probably read it already. If you haven't, run to your library now! This is required reading for anyone interested in the case. This is probably the best written of any of the books on the Borden murders. Lincoln managed to weave the facts into her narrative in a very entertaining way, a feat most writers on this subject never mastered.

That isn't to say I buy into all her theories. She just presented them in a much more convincing and readable way. Lincoln was born and raised in Fall River society, bringing an insider's perspective to the events. She blended opinion, local background, and fact as only a native could do. Lincoln theorized that Lizzie murdered her parents during an epileptic spell. The author followed Lizzie through the crime, the trial, and her later life.

A Private Disgrace received an Edgar Allen Poe award from the Mystery Writers of America for the best true crime book of 1967.

That's all for now, see you in the next issue.



LIZBITS

by Neilson Caplain

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Abby and Andrew, Lizzie, Emma and Bridget, these names are no more or less than one might meet up with in a late nineteenth-century murder case. You might also expect that Lizzie would be just the nickname for Elizabeth. Not so; Lizzie is the name with which she was christened, not to her liking, perhaps, for in later life she preferred to be known as Lizbeth.

It is the trio of middle names that is more intriguing. Andrew Jackson Borden was staunchly named after our seventh President, a practice not unusual in those days, and even used sparingly nowadays. Lizzie's male middle name, Andrew, after her father, suggests that her parents would have preferred to be blessed with a son instead of a daughter. And then there is Vinnicum, a name that goes nicely with the monosyllabic John and Morse. But whence Vinnicum? As commented in the Boston Globe June 8, 1893, John Vinnicum Morse isn't quite as odd a name as Pod Dimuke, but it has its peculiarities none the less.

Another trio comes to mind, this time of duos. Medley and Mullaly, doughty policemen who gave mighty testimony at the trial, one of whose testimony, if true, gave the lie to Lizzie's presence in the loft of the barn, and, if false, was mere toadying to please his superior officers whose belief in the girl's guilt could not be shaken.

The second duo is Robinsky and Lubinsky, both street peddlers and each having difficulty with the English language. Their way of making a living was typical of those immigrants who came to America seeking the "Golden Medina," a country in which the metal was so common that the streets were paved with it.

Thirdly, we have "Brownie and me," who pushed each other off the sidewalk as they made their way down Second Street that fatal morning. Brownie was none other than Everett P. Brown, who was old enough in 1898, six years later, to serve in the armed forces in the Spanish-American War, and whose likeness is in a neat oval picture in the large composite commemorating the War, which work of art graces one wall in the conference room downstairs in the Historical Society Building.

Finally, there are the particularly fitting names of Hilliard and Fleet, first and second in command of the Fall River Police Department. Could not these names have been chosen by Arthur Conan Doyle or by Edgar Allen Poe in their works of fiction?

LIZZIE BORDEN AND THE CAT

In one or more of the mighty tomes written about the Borden case there is reference to Lizzie Borden and an unfortunate cat. It seems that the former beheaded the latter, cold-bloodedly, lending credence to her ability to similarly end the lives of Pa and Step-Ma. Now comes to my notice one Margaret Coggeswell (her maiden name) who likes to be called by her nickname Pegge. Her mother was Mabel Clancy Coggeswell, her grand-

mother was Nellie Neville, and her great-grandmother whose name Pegge does not remember, came from County Cork, Ireland, to live here in our fair city. The latter lady told Nellie, who told Mabel, who told Pegge, who told me, that she, the great grandmother, played with Lizzie as a child, and that Lizzie threw a kitten down a well, there to drown and die.

ONE FACT - ONE BOOK

On rereading the various tomes on the Borden case I find facts asserted in only one book, and not repeated in any other. For instance, Agnes de Mille writes on page 35 of her book that, "the city hall clock was known to be out of kilter -- off by ten minutes." This is not repeated elsewhere, but if that truly was the case it throws off the general understanding of the times on that fateful morning. Most authorities say that Bridget heard Lizzie's alarm at eleven o'clock when City Hall tolled the hour. But if Miss deMille had the facts right Spiering's assertion that Bridget heard the alarm at ten minutes after eleven o'clock, and not on the hour, is correct.

I question that Lizzie would have had the strength to break the hatchet handle in half. After all, the wood for such a tool is especially selected for hardness. Now, however, Colin Wilson, a respected British writer introduces a vise, in his *Mammoth Book of True Crime 2*, as follows: "Then she went to the barn and washed the hatchet, smashed off its bloodstained handle in a vise, which she burnt and rubbed the blade in ashes." Nowhere, in the trial testimony or in other books and articles have I seen a vise mentioned.

Frank Spiering had the Fall River Line of steamships zigzagging up and down the Quequechan River. That bit of knowledge is, of course, unique. The Quequechan River is eminently unnavigable for such palatial steamers. Not only is it a narrow stream in places, but it is filled with rocks and waterfalls.

Aside from his main theme (an illegitimate son was the author of the awful crime), Arnold Brown's book affords a plethora of fact and fantasy not found elsewhere. Here are some examples:

When Abby went to see Dr. Bowen on the Wednesday before the murders, she "underlined her own illness by ungraciously vomiting in his office." I wonder where Mr. Brown picked up this juicy bit -- it is not mentioned in any other writing that I know of.

On page 19 of the book the assertion is made that Andrew Borden controlled all the banks in Fall River. In 1892, there were in town seven National Banks, four Savings Banks, one Co-operative Bank, and one Trust Company. According to City Directories, Andrew Borden was connected with only two of these thirteen institutions. He was President and Director of the Union Savings Bank (which shared the same offices with the National Union Bank), and a Director of the B.M.C. Durfee Safe Deposit & Trust Company.

(Continued on Page 18.)

SPOTLIGHT ON MARY T. CUSACK

By Mary T. Cusack

How do I describe myself in at least 300 words and not remember those essays the nuns at St. Mary's assigned the kids so they would stay put in their seats? Back then they still wore long dresses that made them look like penguins. Jiminy Crickets! It's either that or pretend I'm writing out a personal ad.

Reddish Auburn Hair, Blue Eyes, Attractive. Born on a December day not long after Christmas. Which means my birthday presents were usually wrapped in paper printed with logos of reindeer and sleigh. The year was 1961. A year later, on Lizzie's birthday, I was adopted by an Irish family. I was named Mary because my mother prayed a rosary to the Virgin Mary that the next child she brought home would be a little girl. Though I never met them, one grandmother was named Bridget and my mom's mom earned her living as a maid during the Depression. My dad was in the business of arranging funerals but he wasn't cheap like Old Andrew! When *he* needed these services, my brother Tommy carried on the business. He has a wife, Ann Marie and three little munchkins named T.J., Deirdre and Stephanie.

I spent all my life in Westfield, Massachusetts. In Lizzie's day this was the town that supplied the world with buggy whips and those old-fashioned Columbia bicycles that have a giant front wheel and an itty-bitty rear wheel. As long as I can remember, I have had an over-active imagination and some of it would spill onto paper as doodles and drawings which sometimes turned into little stories. There was my J.R.R. Tolkien period where my cartoons featured elves and wizards but mostly they were caricatures of teachers, bullies and bosses. It's a wonder I made my way through school to earn a B.A. in English Literature from Westfield State College.

I still live in the "Whip City." My mom is very tolerant of the fact that I still haven't used my wings to find my own nest. The only drawback is that she won't let me get a Welch Corgi. She believes I won't take care of it. Perhaps she's right. I work overnights at a country radio station and the last thing I want to do at six o'clock in the morning is walk a dog, no matter how fast it wags its cute little tail.

I got hooked on Lizzie when Elizabeth Montgomery played the role on television. I guess you could say I was "*Bewhacked*." Imagine my surprise when I saw a picture of the real Lizzie and found her nose wasn't cute like the little one Samantha used to twitch!

Princess Maplecroft was first created in a notebook I carried around at the B.C.C. Centennial Conference while I was waiting between lectures. A year later, after thinking about all the different theories there are about 'whodunit,' I came up with one of my own. What if Sarah Borden didn't die? Perhaps she was locked up in a closet while rocks were buried in her place. Of course, every now and then Emma would feed her and make sure she didn't burn down the house. August 4, 1892, Lizzie opens up another door she wasn't supposed to snoop in and a very angry mother asks where they keep the meat cleavers. They don't have meat cleavers but there is a nice box of hatchets in the cellar. I

had to put this into a cartoon. More poured out of my pen.

I hope my characters put a smile on some faces like they have mine. I try not to be too tasteless in my humor. If interested in sending comments, suggestions or ideas, my e-mail address is PMaplecroft@aol.com, or you may write to me in care of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* Editor.



Mary, at home, resting from her labours
Photograph reproduced courtesy of Mary Cusack.



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"PRINCESS MA PLECIROFT"

#1

LIZZIE
AKA "LEZZBETH"
BORDEN



APPLE OF DADDY'S EYE.
SAYS SHE WAS LOOKING FOR
LEAD FISHING SIN KERS
OR JUST EATING PEARS

#2

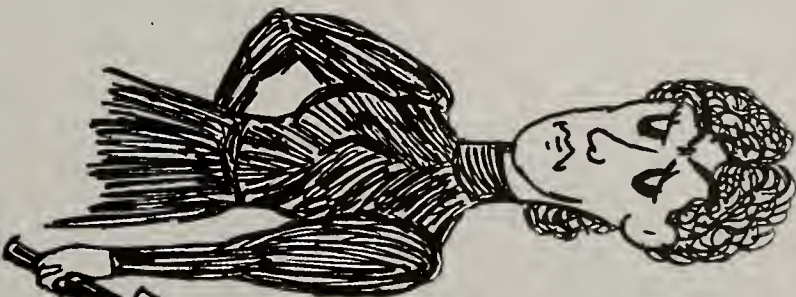
BRIDGET
AKA "MAGGIE"
SULLIVAN



THE MAD
SAYS SHE WAS WASHING
WINDOWS OR VOMITING
IN THE BACK YARD

#3

EMMA
AKA "EMME"
BORDEN



FIRST BORN OF
ANDREW AND SARAH
BORDEN. SAYS SHE
WAS IN FAIR HAVEN
ALL DAY.

#4

JOHN
"UNCLE"
MORSE



HAD DETAILED
MEMORY OF WHERE
HE WENT TO PROVE
WHERE HE WASN'T
BUT HAD NO CLUE
OF ANY OTHER
DAY IN HIS
LIFE.

#5

DAVID
ANTHONY



LEGEND SAYS
HE WAS ENGAGED
TO MARY LIZZIE
LEGBAD SAYS SOON
AFTER MURDER
HE WENT ON
VACATION TO
RELIEVE STRESS

#6

WILLIAM
"BILLY"
BORDEN



SUPPOSED BASTARD
SON OF ANDREW
BORDEN.
COULD HAVE BEEN
ON HIS FARM
KIDNAP COWS

#7

SARA
MORSE
BORDEN



FIRST WIFE
OF ANDREW BORDEN
RECORDS SAY SHE
DIED WHEN
LIZZIE WAS TWO.
COULD SHE HAVE
BEEN LOCKED UP
BECAUSE OF "PETS"?
REMEMBER THE
PYROMANIAC
IN "JANE EYRE"?
?

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LIZZIE BORDEN CONNECTION

PART ONE

By William Schley-Ulrich

(Editor's note: As you may have surmised, Mr. Ulrich is a noted "Sherlockian" and has graced our pages in the past. The "Winter, 1995" LBQ featured his "The Carvings of Maplecroft" article on the front page. His work is noted for its extensive research.

This story is no exception, not only the real world of Lizzie, but the fictionalized frame of Mr. Holmes are both tellingly researched. Now, just sit back, enjoy, and look forward to the next installment)

INTRODUCTION

*Lizzie Borden took an axe
And gave her mother forty whacks;
When she saw what she had done,
She gave her father forty-one.*

Although the slaughter of Andrew and Abby Borden occurred over one hundred years ago, this well-known jingle, author unknown, has served to keep the legend alive. Shortly after the murders, children sang this rhyme to the tune of *Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-De-Ay*, while playing jump rope and other games.

Charles and Marianna Holmes were real people and close friends of the Borden family. He was an elected official of two Fall River banks and the editor of the Fall River News.

THE GREAT HIATUS

On May 6, 1891, the Swiss newspaper, *Journal de Geneve*, announced the untimely death of Sherlock Holmes of London. On the following day, a Reuters dispatch carried this sad news to the English press:

NOTED CONSULTING DETECTIVE FALLS TO HIS DEATH

TRAGIC ACCIDENT AT REICHENBACH FALLS

"Sherlock Holmes of 221B Baker Street, London, has apparently plunged to his death at the Reichenbach Falls. The Falls is located in the Hasli Valley, near the small village of Meirengen, Switzerland. Another Englishman, Professor James Moriarty, is also missing and presumed to be lost. Any attempt to recover the bodies has been deemed fruitless by the authorities.

Apparently the two men were engaged in conversation near the Falls when the ledge they had been standing on collapsed, plunging them into a chasm of foaming water. Dr. John H. Watson, a long-time companion of Mr. Holmes, found a silver cigarette box and a walking stick belonging to the amateur detective on a flat rock adjacent to the scene of the tragedy. Mr.

Holmes had achieved a certain measure of fame as a consulting detective, and had also assisted the local police of London in



some of their routine investigations. He is survived by his brother, Mycroft, an auditor occupying a minor position at Whitehall."

* * * *

Sherlock Holmes did not die at the Reichenbach Falls. On that fateful day in May, the world's most celebrated consulting detective had engaged Moriarty in mortal combat. By virtue of his superior physical strength and his knowledge of Baritsu, the Japanese system of wrestling, he was able to overcome his arch enemy and cast him into a watery grave at the bottom of the Falls. Holmes left Switzerland incognito. If Moriarty's henchmen believed he was dead, they might become careless in their daily illegal operations. If this occurred, it would be an easy matter for the authorities to capture and imprison them.

During this period of his adventurous life, Sherlock Holmes traveled abroad for almost three years. He maintained contact with Mycroft, who provided him with the necessary funds for his day-to-day existence. When it was convenient, Sherlock would carry out various private assignments for the British government under the aegis of his brother.

To preserve his anonymity, Holmes assumed the Norwegian alias of Sigerson. While traveling in Tibet, he visited the capital of Lhasa and presented the traditional white scarf to the head Lama, the central figure and flower of Buddhism. A ruling had been made late in the 18th century forbidding the entry of any foreigner into the sacred city. Holmes was the only known exception up to that time and Lhasa, thereafter, remained a closed city to all others until it was occupied by the British forces in 1904.

While passing through Persia, Sherlock looked in at Mecca, the birthplace of Muhammad and the holiest city of Islam. He also paid a short, but enlightening, visit to the Khalif at Khartoum, the capital of the Sudan.

* * * *

At this point in our account we are faced with a discrepancy in the canon. Watson's narrative of *The Empty House*, tells of Holmes spending a portion of his hiatus engaged in coal-tar research at a laboratory in the city of Montpellier (two 'l's) in southern France. In truth, Mycroft had persuaded his brother to accept a confidential assignment in Montpelier (one 'l'), the capital of Vermont. Some months after Holmes returned to England, Watson was made privy to the details of this mission and sworn to secrecy by Mycroft. Watson only succeeded in keeping half of the secret; he slipped up when he wrote, 'Montpelier, France' in his account instead of the 'Montpellier, France'. He had the right city, but the wrong country.

Sherlock reported to the director of this secret laboratory in Vermont at his brother's request in order to, as Mycroft expressed it, "assist in a matter of considerable importance to her Majesty and the British and American governments." The laboratory was deeply involved in researching coal-tar derivatives and several prominent chemists from both nations had volunteered to work on this project.

Coal-tar, a viscous, black liquid, is obtained from the distillation of coal. The phenol fraction yields carbolic acid, the source of dyes, medicines and explosives. The latter derivative was the one that interested the technologists engaged in the Montpelier project. It was Mycroft's belief that his brother's extensive background in analytical chemistry would be of inestimable value in this joint undertaking.

Sherlock Holmes spent several months in Vermont with the coalition of scientists in an effort to discover a new, and more powerful, 'super explosive': one that could be used against the future enemies of both nations. The successful results of their research could not be revealed to the public at this time, but in June, 1902, Sherlock Holmes was offered a knighthood for "an important contribution to the civilized world." He declined with thanks.

During the First World War a propellant was developed by the British ordnance department capable of firing a large projectile over great distances. The research undertaken by this small group in Montpelier, Vermont, some twenty-odd years before had made this possible. This important development proved to be instrumental in the defeat of the German army and the shortening of the Great War.

* * * *

The adventures experienced by Holmes during his travels were but a prelude to his investigation of one of the darkest and most bizarre murders in the annals of American crime. On August 4, 1892, Abby and Andrew Borden were slaughtered in their home in Fall River, Massachusetts. The newspapers called this double parricide the 'crime of the century'.

It was certainly that.

THE LEGEND

The area that is known as Fall River was obtained by a treaty between the grantees of the Plymouth county and Massasoit, the chief of the Wamponoags. The Indian inhabitants played a prominent part in the War of King Philip and the territory long remained the hunting ground of the tribe. The Indian Chieftain, King Philip, was captured and slain at Mount Hope across the bay. Fall River was settled at the mouth of the Taunton River and in 1854 was charted as a city and port of entry for Bristol County.

The extensive waterways and the presence of a natural harbor played a key part in Fall River becoming the largest textile manufacturing center in the country. It was also conveniently connected by railway to other major cities and towns in the vicinity.

Fall River faces west and has an area of forty-two square miles. It extends for nine miles along a granite ledge rising steeply from the river. About two miles to the east are the Watuppa Lakes, from which the little Quequechan River tumbles down into the city, coursing under the City Hall.

In 1714, two Borden brothers owned all of what is now Fall River. As the years passed and generation succeeded generation, fortunes were made by some and lost by others in the Borden clan. Colonel Joseph Durfee opened a modest textile mill in 1811, which was the beginning of the greatest textile center in the world. Within seventy years Fall River's cotton mills were producing more than half the nation's output of print cloth.

Abraham Borden was a part-time fisherman and fishmonger. He owned a small parcel of real estate with important water rights. His son, Andrew Jackson Borden, was born in the family house on Fourth Street in 1822. Andrew's ambition could not be denied. In 1854, when only 32 years of age, he became a partner in the firm of Borden and Almy, the only undertaking establishment in Fall River. Borden was a tall, slender, non-smoking teetotaler. He was also a tight-fisted, tight-lipped individual with few friends. He had invested heavily in Main Street real estate and purchased several farms through foreclosures. He retained these properties just long enough to turn a handsome profit.

Andrew married his first wife, Sarah J. Morse, in 1854. Their daughter, Emma Lenora, was born in 1850, followed by the birth of Alice Esther in 1856. Two years later, Alice Esther died. Lizzie Andrew was born in 1860. When his wife passed away in 1862, he was left with the care of thirteen-year-old Emma and two-year-old Lizzie. In 1871, Andrew moved his family into a larger house at 92 Second Street. Lizzie was twelve years old at the time.

Their new home was a characteristic, gable-ended, pilaster-cornered Greek Revival structure, built circa 1845. The new address was convenient to many of Andrew's business interests

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on nearby Main Street. Within the next two years he married Abby Durfee Gray, daughter of Oliver Gray, who resided three blocks away on Fourth Street. In spite of the lack of up-to-date facilities, the house at 92 Second Street was in much better condition than their former, shabby home on Ferry Street. Still, it was no palace.

The undistinguished two-and-one-half-story wooden building looked out of place among its more affluent neighbors. It was only twenty feet wide and drably painted. Each floor had been constructed as a railroad flat and to get from the front of the house to the back it was necessary to traverse all of the adjoining rooms. The plumbing was primitive. It consisted of a water-closet, sort of an out-house in-house, which was installed in the cellar. There was a single faucet in the sink room adjoining the pantry and a cold-water tap in the cellar. The coal furnace in the cellar supplied central heating; a surprisingly up-to-date feature when you consider the antiquated conveniences that existed throughout the rest of the house. Kerosene lamps were used exclusively. Modern illuminating gas was available, but not piped into the house on Second Street -- old man Borden was not about to incur the extra expense required for this obvious luxury.

Abby and Andrew shared a room on the second floor. Lizzie and her sister had separate bedrooms on the same floor with a connecting door. The Borden maid, Bridget Sullivan, occupied a modified section of the attic which had been converted into a small bedroom. Bridget was an intelligent, good-natured Irish girl who had been employed by the Bordens for the past two-and-a-half years. Lizzie displayed an utter disregard for the young girl's feelings and constantly referred to her as "Maggie", the name of her predecessor. Bridget was the only household employee retained by the Bordens, although other families in Fall River with comparable wealth had three or more servants.

A small barn at the rear of the house was utilized by the Borden family for storage. A non-functioning well was adjacent to the barn. Most of the neighbors owned a horse and carriage, but Andrew Borden considered this an extravagance. He had sold his horse and carriage about a year before and practically all of the family's transportation was now accomplished by 'shanks mare'. The Borden backyard contained a small grape arbor and a few pear trees. Barbed wire had been strung on top of a high fence at the rear of the property to discourage intruders. A sturdy picket fence bordered the sides and front of the property with two gates, one opening on the north, the other on the west side of the house.

Three blocks away, and clearly visible from the Borden house was the chimney of the Fall River Iron Works. It was over 350 feet high and one of the tallest of its kind in the United States. Now abandoned, it had become an ideal haven for huge flocks of birds. Emma and Lizzie would sit on the side steps of the house at twilight on a summer's eve, trying to count the thousands of chimney swifts that took shelter within the tall brick tower.

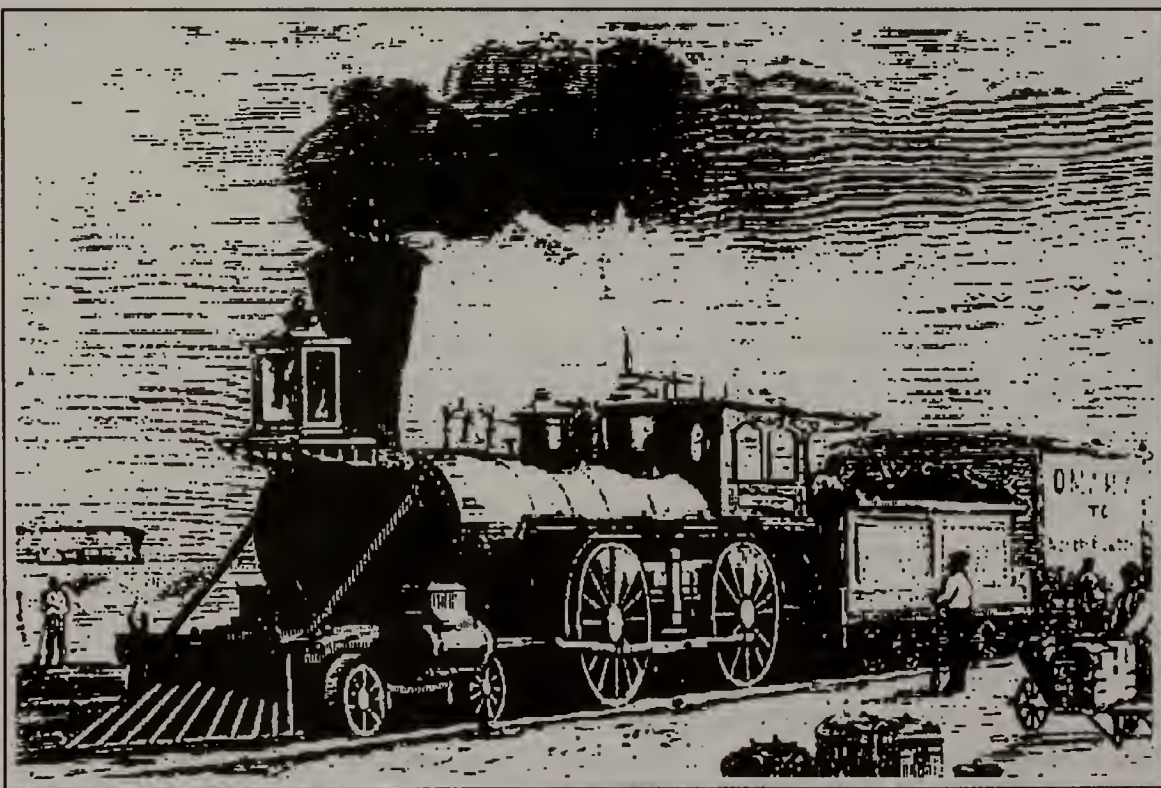
Andrew Borden owned large blocks of stock in the more

profitable mills of the Fall River area. He was President of the Union Savings Bank and also had directorships at the First National Bank, the Durfee Safe Deposit and Trust Company, the Globe Yarn Mill Company, the Merchants Manufacturing Company and the Troy Cotton and Woolen Manufacturing Company. In keeping with his inherent frugality his expenditures were few and his charitable contributions non-existent. When the tax assessor, an official of Andrew's church, raised the assessed valuation of some of his properties, Andrew Borden ceased going to church on Sunday.

At the time of his death, Andrew Borden was 70 years old. His cash and real estate assets were estimated to be worth over a half million dollars. If anyone doubted the influence wielded by the Borden clan at this period in history, a look at the Fall River City Directory of 1892 would change his or her mind. It lists one hundred and twenty-six Borden heads of families! The prestige and influence of this first family were important factors in the outcome of Lizzie's trial.

July 23, 1892, Sunday

6:00 A. M. Emma Lenora Borden was a plain-looking, 42-year-old spinster. She sat at the dressing table in front of her mirror gazing at the long, solemn face that looked back at her. Emma was a tender and sensitive woman, who secretly longed for the companionship of others. Unfortunately, her shyness tended to keep her close to home for long periods of time. She had no suitors and few close friends. Emma did little to occupy her leisure time other than the occasional concert or lecture, which she usually attended alone or in the company of her sister, Lizzie.



This morning, however, was different. Emma was aglow with excitement over her impending trip. In a short time she would be boarding the train for an extended visit to her friend, Mrs. Brownell, in Fairhaven. Emma had never traveled beyond the confines of New England in her entire life, and even a fifteen-mile trip to a nearby town was looked upon as a delicious adventure. Lizzie would accompany her sister part of the way, stopping off at Marion on Buzzard's Bay to visit an old chum before returning to Fall River.

Emma brushed some imaginary lint from her shoulders and

carefully pinned a cameo broach to the neck of her new blue cotton dress. She bent down and picked up a small brown valise containing her belongings, then crossed the room to the door of her sister's bedroom. A few years earlier Lizzie had insisted on possession of the larger bedroom and Emma, who deferred to her younger sister in all things, had surrendered the room without a struggle.

She knocked. "Lizzie, it's almost time to leave."

No answer.

The only egress was through Lizzie's room. Emma opened the door, passed through her sister's bedroom and descended the stairway to the kitchen. Lizzie was boiling a kettle of water on the coal-burning stove.

"I'm starving," said Emma.

"There's no time for breakfast just now," said Lizzie, "you got up too late. The hot water is just about ready. We'll have a quick cup of coffee and be on our way. Maybe we can get some rolls or something else to eat on the train." Emma nodded in silent assent. Her sister always had her way.

* * * *

Lizzie Andrew Borden was 32 years old at the time of the killings. She was full-lipped and round-cheeked, with a figure inclined towards plumpness. Lizzie had bright-red hair parted in the middle and drawn into a bun at the back of her head. Her salient feature was her eyes - large, penetrating and light-blue in color. After the birth of Alice and Emma, Andrew had hoped for a boy to carry on the family's business interests. He had demonstrated his disappointment and displeasure when a third daughter was born by christening her "Lizzie Andrew Borden". The name was a sore-spot with Lizzie for her entire life.

Lizzie was an active member of a number of civic and church groups. She taught a Sunday School class and had complete charge of the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for the poor. Conscientious and hard-working, she was a life-long member of the WCTU and the Fall River Hospital Board. Lizzie had no difficulty obtaining male escorts for social functions, but there is no record of a serious or long-lasting relationship.

Emma and Lizzie received an annual allowance of \$200 each, a pittance considering their father's financial strata. The generosity Andrew extended to his wife's family, the Whiteheads, was completely out of character and the subject for many heated arguments between the banker and his daughters. To make amends he had presented them with a gift of a choice parcel of real estate. A few weeks before he was killed, he bought the property back for a sum considerably less than the actual value of the property. After his death it was discovered he had resold the property for a handsome profit.

August 2, 1892, Tuesday

10:00 P.M. Andrew and Abby Borden experienced nausea and violent cramps after a late supper. Their moaning awakened Lizzie. She slipped out of her bed and knocked on their door.

"What's wrong? Are you all right?"

"Go back to bed, Lizzie," said Abby, "we're all right. It's just a stomach upsetment."

August 3, 1892, Wednesday

9:00 A.M. "Lizzie, your father and I were so ill last night. I feel certain someone must have poisoned us," said Abby.

"I don't feel too well this morning, myself," Lizzie replied, "maybe it was something we had for supper last night; the mutton, perhaps."

"I don't know," answered Abby, "but I think I'll ask Doctor Bowen to step over and have a look at me."

Bridget was sent across the street to summon Dr. Seabury Bowen, the family physician. After examining Mrs. Borden, Dr. Bowen stated her illness was probably caused by the consumption of spoiled meat. He attempted to examine Andrew, who refused.

"I didn't send for a doctor, have no need of your services, and I won't pay for an examination I don't require."

*

1:30 P.M. That afternoon, John Vinnicum Morse, the brother of Borden's first wife, Sarah, arrived at the house for an overnight visit.

August 4, 1892, Thursday

6:15 A.M. It was the third day of the current heat wave. The attic bedroom was unbearably hot and Bridget felt queasy as she arose from her cot. Slipping into a light-weight wrapper, she descended the back stairs to the kitchen. Wiping the moisture from her forehead with a towel, she groaned aloud at the prospect of building a fire in the cook-stove on such a hot day.

*

6:30 A.M. Abby Borden came downstairs and Andrew appeared a few minutes later, fully clothed except for a jacket. His white hair was thinning and his beard was a half-wreath stretching from ear to ear. In spite of the heat, he donned a light sweater, opened the side screen door, and went into the back yard where he emptied his slop pitcher. Before returning to the house he picked a small basket of pears.

*

6:45 A.M. John Morse joined the Borden's in the dining room. "Today's going to be a real scorcher," he said, "worse than yesterday. I could hardly sleep at all last night-it was that hot."

*

7:00 A.M. The thermometer on the kitchen porch was already reading in the upper eighties. Bridget served the warmed-over mutton broth, along with bananas, bread, johnny cake and coffee. Lizzie was not present, which was not an unusual occurrence. The sisters seldom took their meals with the rest of the family.

*

8:45 A.M. After finishing his breakfast, Morse pushed back his chair and tossed his napkin on the table.

"Have to get going if I want to visit that nephew of mine," he said, "I want to get there and back before it gets too hot."

"Don't come back too late," cautioned Andrew, "we have dinner promptly at noon, so don't be tardy."

Bridget was in the kitchen cleaning up. She became violently ill and rushed into the backyard where she vomited. Returning a few minutes later, she locked the screen door behind her, ever mindful of Andrew Borden's standing instructions to keep the doors in the house secured at all times.

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*

9:00 A.M. Lizzie entered the kitchen and told Bridget she didn't want breakfast. After pouring a cup of black coffee she walked into the dining room and handed her father a letter to mail to Emma.

*

9:20 A.M. Andrew left the house for his daily walk to the business district. His current routine included an inspection of the construction for the new A.J. Borden Building. He usually completed his rounds by mid-morning and then returned home.

*

9:25 A.M. Abby Borden was 64 years old. She was short; florid and very stout. She moved about with great difficulty, especially in the hot weather. Abby equipped herself with a feather duster from the hall closet and proceeded to dust the furniture in the sitting room in a lackadaisical manner.

"Bridget," she called, "don't forget to wash all of the windows after you've finished the breakfast things. Start with the first floor."

Bridget pushed a wisp of hair off her face and sighed.

"Yes, Mrs. Borden, I'll take care of the windows just as soon as I've finished the breakfast things."

9:30 A.M. Mrs. Borden walked into the sink room, breathing noisily. Bridget was scrubbing a large pot.

"Get me some fresh pillowcases and sheets out of the linen closet," wheezed Abby, "I want to change the bedding in the guest room for Mr. Morse."

These were the very last words she ever spoke.

*

9:45 A.M. After completing the cleanup of the breakfast dishes, Bridget gathered up her pail and brushes and exited the house through the back door. She was returning from the barn with a pailful of water when Lizzie appeared in the doorway, ready to fasten the latch. Bridget dissuaded her, saying she would be close by. Bridget made several trips to the barn for fresh water. After finishing the outside windows, she reentered the house, latched the unlocked door and began to work on the sitting room windows. When questioned later by the police, she said she saw no suspicious characters loitering around the property at any time during that morning.

*

10:00 A.M. Andrew arrived at the Union Savings Bank. Fifteen minutes later he left and visited, in turn, the National Union Bank and the First National Bank of Fall River. His final stop was the shop of Jonathan Clegg, hatter and haberdasher, who was one of his tenants.

*

10:20 A.M. Andrew left Clegg's store and began the short walk back to his home on Second Street.

*

10:40 A.M. Andrew Borden was observed by his next door neighbor, Mrs. Kelly, as he attempted to open his front door. Bridget heard him fumbling with the lock and hurried to his assistance. The door was double-locked and bolted causing her some difficulty. As she struggled with the lock she heard Lizzie laughing at her plight from the top of the stairs. Bridget finally got the door open and admitted the banker, red-faced and

annoyed.

Lizzie came downstairs.

"Did you mail my letter?" she asked.

"Yes," he replied.

"Was there anything at the Post Office for me?"

"No, nothing at all."

"Mrs. Borden has gone out; she had a note from somebody who has taken sick."

"Who sent the note?"

"I don't know," said Lizzie, "she didn't tell me."

At the inquest, Bridget would testify that she had overheard this conversation between Lizzie and Mr. Borden.

*

10:45 A.M. Andrew Borden informed Lizzie he was going to take a nap.

"I'll call you for dinner," said Lizzie.

"I'll get up when I get up," was his reply. He went into the sitting room and laid down on the horsehair sofa.

It was the last time he was seen alive.

*

10:50 A.M. Bridget was washing the inside of the dining room windows when Lizzie walked into the room.

"Maggie, are you going out this afternoon?"

"I don't know. I might and I might not. I don't feel very well."

"If you go out be sure and lock the door. Mrs. Borden has gone out on a sick-call and I might go out, too."

"Miss Lizzie, who is sick?"

"I don't know; she had a note this morning. It must be someone in town."

Bridget finished washing the windows and went into the kitchen to empty her pail.

"Maggie, there is a cheap sale of dress goods at Sargent's this afternoon at eight cents a yard," said Lizzie.

"I am going to buy some," Bridget replied. Drying her hands on a towel she walked through the kitchen entry and slowly climbed the stairs to the attic room. Hot, tired and nauseous, she wanted to rest for half an hour before preparing dinner. As she dozed she heard the City Hall clock striking eleven o'clock.

*

11:10 A.M. "Maggie, come down!"

The maidservant rose sluggishly from her cot. The sheet was damp with perspiration. "What's the matter?" she mumbled.

"Come down, quick. Father's dead. Somebody came in and killed him!"

Bridget rushed down the stairs and tried to enter the sitting room but Lizzie barred the way.

"No, don't go in there," she said. "Go over and get the doctor. Run!"

Bridget ran across the street to the home of Dr. Bowen and informed the doctor's wife of the tragedy. Mrs. Bowen told Bridget her husband was out on a call but was expected back momentarily. She assured the maid she would send him over upon his return. Bridget raced back to the house. She asked Lizzie where she had been when her father was killed.

"I was out in the yard and I heard a groan. When I came in the screen door was wide open." Lizzie then directed her to fetch Alice Russell, who lived around the corner. As she left the house, Bridget was stopped by their next-door neighbor, Mrs.

Churchill, who asked what was wrong. When told what had happened, she rushed over to the Borden house to comfort Lizzie.

"Oh, Mrs. Churchill," cried Lizzie, "I'm so glad you're here. Someone has killed Father!"

"Where were you when it happened, Lizzie?" asked Mrs. Churchill. Lizzie told her she was in the barn. "Where is your mother?" She told Mrs. Churchill about the note her stepmother had received earlier.

It was at this point Dr. Bowen arrived and went directly into the sitting room. "Blood was seeping from numerous wounds on the body." He later described the scene. "Some of it had spattered on the sofa, some of it was on the floor and walls, it was literally everywhere. It was evident that Andrew Borden had been reclining on the right side of the sofa, fully dressed, when he was butchered by a person or persons unknown. His rolled-up coat had been used as a pillow for his head. I assume he was, mercifully, asleep at the time of his death."

"His face was unrecognizable, one of his eyes had been sliced in half and his nose had been severed from his face, giving his visage a horrible and inhuman appearance. No less than eleven distinct cuts could be discerned upon the head of the victim." Dr. Bowen further stated that the injuries were inflicted by a sharp, heavy weapon, probably an ax or a hatchet.

"Lizzie, where is Mrs. Borden?" asked Bridget.

"Maggie, I am almost positive I heard her coming in. Go upstairs and see." Dr. Bowen requested a sheet from Bridget to cover the body in the sitting room.

*

11:15 A.M. The murder of the Bordens was reported to the authorities at the Central Police Station by John Cunningham, the local news dealer who happened to be passing through the neighborhood. Officer George Allen was assigned by City Marshal Rufus Hilliard to conduct the initial investigation. Allen ran the quarter mile from headquarters to the house on Second Street and after a cursory examination of the body, returned to the station house for reinforcements.

*

11:30 A.M. Lizzie repeated her request to Bridget. "Go upstairs and summon Mrs. Borden."

Bridget refused.

"I'm not going up there alone."

Mrs. Churchill offered to accompany her. Together they ascended the front stairs to the guest room. Before reaching the landing they saw the body of Mrs. Borden stretched out on the floor next to the bed. Mrs. Churchill pushed past the frightened Bridget and entered the room. After viewing the corpse she rushed downstairs shouting, "There's another one up here!"

Upon hearing this outburst, Dr. Bowen dashed upstairs. The killing of Abby was even more gruesome than Andrew's. Her skull had been crushed by no less than eighteen blows from an axe or hatchet, presumably the same weapon that had killed her husband. Hanging down in front of her face was a large flap of skin and hair, sliced from the back of her scalp by one of the less skillful blows of the assassin. The blood surrounding the body at the side of the bed had congealed and turned black in color. Dr. Bowen later told the police Abby had probably died first, preceding the death of her husband by an hour to an hour and a half. This estimate was later confirmed by the medical examiner.

*

11:40 A.M. After returning from the visit to his relatives, John V. Morse immediately went into the backyard to pick a few pears. He had eaten very little of the unsavory breakfast and was quite hungry. As he ascended the steps, a police guard stationed at the side door informed him of the killings.

*

12:00 Noon Upon his arrival at the Borden house, Marshall Fleet entered the kitchen where Lizzie was being attended by Mrs. Churchill and Miss Alice Russell.

Lizzie informed the Marshall of the note her stepmother had received before leaving to make a sick call. After her father's return Lizzie said she went to the hayloft in the barn to search for scrap lead for sinkers. She wanted the sinkers for a fishing trip she was planning. At this point in the narrative, Lizzie excused herself and went to her room. She returned to the kitchen a short time later, wearing a pink housecoat. Lizzie told the Marshall she wanted Mr. Winwood, the undertaker, to take charge of the remains and make the necessary arrangements for the funeral. As several witnesses later testified, she had not shed a tear during this entire period.

*

12:30 P.M. The police searched the entire house. Nothing appeared to be missing, so robbery was discounted as a possible motive. Inspector Medley went into the barn to confirm Lizzie's story. The heat was intense. He noted the floor was heavily covered with dust, but was unable to find any discernible marks or footprints other than the ones he had made. This contradicted Lizzie's story concerning her presence in the hayloft.

The absence of Lizzie's footprints was also confirmed by Sgt. Philip Harrington, who examined the loft a short time later. In the course of the investigation two hatchets and two axes were discovered in the cellar. A hatchet head without a handle was also found. They were tagged and held for evidence.

*

3:00 P.M. The autopsies of the murdered couple were performed on the dining room table by Dr. Bowen and Dr. William A. Dolan, Medical Examiner of Bristol County. Certain organs were removed and shipped to Dr. Edward S. Wood, at the Harvard Medical School, for analysis.

*

5:00 P.M. Emma returned from Fairhaven. A telegram from Mrs. Churchill had informed her of the death of her parents.

*

8:00 P.M. "I'm leaving, Miss Lizzie," said Bridget.

"Leaving?" replied Lizzie, "leaving for where? It's night-time, where could you go?"

"I'm so afraid," cried Bridget, "the man that killed poor Mr. and Mrs. Borden might come back and come after me. He might think I saw him do it."

The sisters tried to coax Bridget to remain until morning, but she was adamant. That night Bridget Sullivan left the Borden residence carrying an unexamined bundle. She went to the home of a neighbor and spent several nights with their maidservant. She never returned to the Borden household.

As it grew dark, hundreds of angry citizens gathered in front of the Borden home. A police guard was assigned for the protection of the occupants.

(Continued next issue)

(Continued from Page 1.)

web than whole cloth. Hannah was also something of a labor agitator. In the Yellow Mill, she said, a person could work from one end of the month to another and never get a cent of cash. She said that if other folks were content to be cheated, she wouldn't stand it. Wages were doled out in credit at the Company Store. Through a system of bookkeeping which seemed devious to Hannah, she found herself in debt to the Company Store. She requested to see the books and was refused. When Mr. David Anthony, who ran the mill, intervened, he discovered that Hannah had been routinely charged for items she had never received. Despite her negotiated settlement with the Company, Hannah wearied of being held in bondage to the Company Store. She wanted to be paid in cash, a proposal which caused Mr. Anthony to respond, "Why, if I gave it to you, all the rest of 'em will want money, and I can't stand that. It would ruin me." Hannah, in turn, said she would quit the mill, and the two struck an agreement for ten dollars.

Andrew's aunt may have raced with her brothers from her father's farmhouse to the top of the hill in 1812. Perhaps she followed the old path, which ran southeasterly from near Borden and Main Streets to Plymouth Avenue. The path roughly followed the line of Fourth Street, beyond the intersection of Morgan Street. Upon reaching the top of the hill, the first thing Hannah and her brothers saw was a patch of cultivated land in the middle of a broad highway. This patch of land would be located near the area of Plymouth Avenue between Fourth and Fifth Streets today.

RICHARD'S WILL

Hannah's father died in 1824, when grandson, Andrew, was just two years old. Richard's widow, Patty, reckoned his personal estate at \$1,988.33 and his real estate at \$11,896. His indebtedness far exceeded his personal estate. The Commissioners, appointed by Judge Baylies to oversee the disposition of Richard's real estate, appraised it at \$8,400. Patty settled for a third of this as her widow's lot, \$2,800. However, part of Richard's holdings were on half a "mill privilege", including the land of the mill site and water rights on the Quequechan, which were sold to his nephew, Colonel Richard Borden, for the sum of \$3,080.31. This mill privilege could very well be what was described in the will of his father, Richard (d. 1795) as ... "I further give my two sons Thomas and Richard my dam that is now begun, to be equally divided between them, and I further give my son Richard the privilege of building a wheat mill only on my stream in the upper place below the upper dam. All which I give to my two sons and their heirs and assigns forever". This will is on record with the Registry of Probate and Deeds for Bristol County in Taunton, Mass. The significance of this transaction has yet to be gauged. Nephew Colonel Richard Borden, destined to become one of the most prominent mill owners in Fall River, was one of the Commissioners appointed by Judge Baylies.

Several of Andrew Borden's aunts and uncles inherited land. Uncle Cook sold a portion of the farmland left to him (14 acres appraised at \$400) for \$1200. For several years he worked for Frost and Gurney, the first lumber dealers in Fall River. In 1832, Cook built his first residence on the east side of Fourth Street. At that time, most of Fourth Street south of Borden lay in the state of Rhode Island. Later, Cook established his own coal and lumber business at Bowenville, in Fall River's North End. He became prosperous enough to build a second house, an Italianate mansion, on Fourth Street around 1870. Now a rooming house called "The Minden", the structure remains virtually unaltered since its construction.

ANDREW'S UNCLE ZEPHANIAH

Andrew's Uncle Zephaniah ran a corn and grain grinding business. He lived on Third Street in a house he had built for himself around 1825. The area north of Rodman Street, once the lost farmstead of Andrew's grandfather, Richard, became part of the late 19th-century neighborhood of Irish immigrants, Corky Row. Several late federal houses survive in this area, which was unaffected by the Fire of 1843. Looking out from his ell, Zephaniah probably had a spectacular view of the fire. The first of Fall River's major conflagrations began in an open space behind Abner Westgate's three-story warehouse. This open space, near the corner of Borden and Main Streets, was covered with shavings kindled by two boys firing a small cannon. Both sides of Main Street and the entire area between Main, Franklin, Rock and Borden became one vast sheet of fire. Nearly 200 buildings were destroyed. Out of a village population of between 8000 and 9000, 1,324 people lived in the burned-out district.

THE SKELETON IN ARMOR

A casualty of the Great Fire was a local celebrity. *The Skeleton in Armor*, made famous by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem of the same name, was found in a "sand or gravel pit" near Hartwell and Fifth Streets. The discoverer was none other Hannah Borden. The skeleton was in a sitting position, quite well-intact, and bore a triangular plate of brass. Around its waist was a belt of steel tubes, each about five inches in length. When Hannah discovered the skeleton in 1832, arrowheads and parts of other skeletons were found nearby as well. The skeleton was placed in the Fall River Athenaeum and lost in the Fire of 1843. The skeleton was supposed to have been that of an Indian chief, but Poet Longfellow gives another interpretation. His was of the mortal remains of a Viking warrior who died by his own hand.

Fortunately for Hannah's brother, Zephaniah, the brisk wind which fanned the flames that second day of July came from the South, sparing his 1½ story cottage. Although now covered with aluminum siding, the house's three-part doorway is still gracefully framed by molded panels, slender pilasters, the outer pair channeled.

The 1871 Atlas of Fall River indicates a Yankee enclave of single-family dwellings on three rectangular blocks bounded on the north by Borden Street and on the south by Rodman Street, lying between Second and Fifth Streets. In 1872, Andrew J. Borden returned to the area of the old homestead, moving into overseer Trafton's Greek Revival tenement.

Mr. Trafton had his house built in the Greek Revival style around 1845. The appearance of the house from the street is that of a Greek temple. Symbolically, the style stood for the democratic ideal. As an architectural style, Greek Revival was popular in the United States from roughly, 1830 to 1850, particularly in areas becoming rapidly settled. Construction with the gable end to the street meant that the size of lots in urban areas could be reduced. The style predominated in many cities of the northeast. When looking at the old masthead of the *Fall River Herald News*, one can discern rows of Greek Revival structures.

In 1871, the later abode of Andrew J. Borden lay in Ward 3, which included vast stretches of vacant land in the East End. The political power lying dormant in Fall River's emerging industrial districts prompted Andrew J. Jennings to express his opinions on Ward 3. These were published in the *Fall River Daily Herald*. Jennings, a Yankee lawyer and graduate of Brown University, would gain prominence later on as the defender of Lizzie Borden.

Just look at Ward 3, which is claimed to be the banner ward of Democracy; compare it with Ward 8. Is the average intelligence of Ward 8 better than in Ward 3? Would you prefer to have 700 or 800 men who own no property, who pay no taxes, who have no interest in the city? Would you prefer to have that class manage the affairs of Fall River? No; you want men who are engaged in business, men who are for the city's interest.

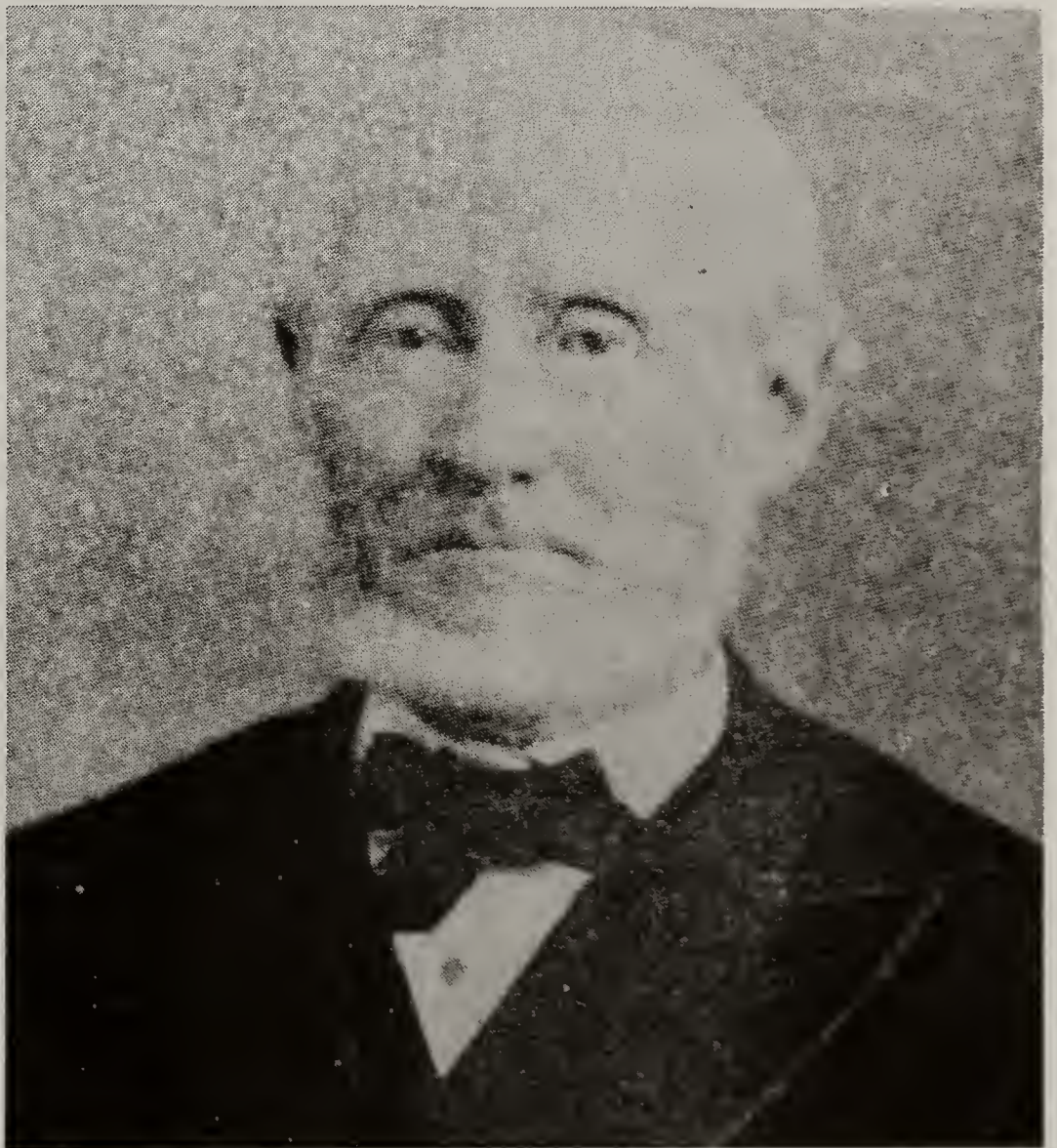
By 1895, the west side of Second Street became a storage and stable area for the businesses lining South Main Street. The east side of Second remained residential. Andrew Borden envisaged Second Street as a future "business highway" running parallel with Main Street. He intended to erect a substantial brick building on the corner of Second and Spring Streets. In an interview with a *Fall River Daily Globe* reporter, which was included posthumously in the August 19, 1892, real estate column, Mr. Borden contemplated the "development project." "I could secure tenants readily for two floors," muses Mr. Borden, "but it wouldn't be just the thing in my mind to leave a third floor for hall or dancing purposes. Second Street will eventually become an overflow business highway, but it won't be in my time. I don't like to move off the street in my lifetime and dances wouldn't be just the thing I'd want around me in my sleep."

When considering the ties his immediate forbearers had to the Borden-Second Street area, one can hardly be surprised that Andrew chose to make his final abode there. Uncles Cook and

Zephaniah managed in their own way, as well, to cling to the old homestead. Perhaps so situated, these "Other Borden" could contemplate fate, doled out in terms of inheritance, in terms of lost land and mill rights.

Andrew succeeded, where father Abraham failed, to recoup material loss. In this world however, Andrew's worry about someone dancing above him, appears groundless. Those theatrics would be played out later on a much more commodious stage.

(Editors note: "I don't like to move off the street in my lifetime and dances wouldn't be just the thing I'd want around me in my sleep." With these prophetic words, the ending of this article is the beginning of the far-flung legend that has captured the imagination, boggled the mind and created the mystery. Thank you Ken, and come back soon)



Mr. Andrew J. Borden

Photograph reproduced courtesy of the Fall River Historical Society.

The following two pages contain a genealogical chart documenting the Lizzie Andrew Borden family tree. Mr. Champlin developed this for *Spinner: People and Culture in Southeastern Massachusetts*, Volume II, 1982.

We thank *Spinner* for their written permission to include this data.

Mr. Champlin updated the chart for the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly*. It was also specially formatted for this printing.

The Editor

Greater Bordens



Thomas Borden
(1750-1831)
m. Mary Hathaway



Richard Borden
(1722-1795)

Thomas and Mary Hathaway had thirteen children, some of whom were destined for great wealth. In their 1877 book *Fall River and Its Industries*, Peck and Earl inform us that "Thomas Borden inherited the homestead of his father, the saw and grist mills destroyed by the British and afterwards rebuilt, together with a portion of his outlying lands. The property thus inherited had been handled down from generation to generation from the first Richard of Tiverton, and so continued in the family until the formation of the Fall River Iron Works Company in 1821 when a portion contiguous to the lower part of the Fall River stream was sold to that corporation. The management, however, still continued in the family of Mr. Borden."



Phoebe Borden
(1779-1840; 2nd of 13)
m. 1. George Borden
2. Bradford Durfee

Phoebe married well. Her second husband, Bradford Durfee, married Mary Brayton after Phoebe's death. Their son was B.M.C. Durfee who died at age 29 and after whom important Fall River structures are named. John, Thomas, Hezekiah and Mary Brayton founded the B.M.C. Durfee Trust in 1887. The Durfee Mills and the Durfee Trust were controlled by the Braytons. Mary Brayton Durfee Young gave Fall River the high school on Rock Street which bears her son's name.

Colonel Richard was active in the organization of the Fall River Iron Works (1821) and the Fall River National Bank. He was also involved in the American Print Works, Waluppa Reservoir Co., the Old Colony Railroad, the Mount Hope Mill, the Anawan Mill and was an originator of the Fall River Line, to name a few. His role in the execution of the estate of his Uncle Richard of the lesser Bordens is part of Uncle Richard's tale. Two of Colonel Richard's sons continued to direct Fall River's rise to prominence as a textile city.

Jefferson was also involved with the Fall River Iron Works but to a lesser degree than Colonel Richard. He was agent for the Iron Works in Providence until nephew Holder died in 1837 creating a vacancy in the management of the American Print Works. He became the executive officer and managing agent of the Print Works, a company he saw through the financial panics of 1837 and 1857 as well as the fire of 1867.

Mary had the good fortune to marry David Anthony who was employed by the Blackstone Manufacturing Co. (Almy, Brown and Slater) in 1808 at twenty-two years of age. Leter David Anthony and his cousin Dexter Wheeler started the Fall River Manufactory, the first cotton mill on the Quequechan, on land belonging to Thomas Borden. Dexter's brother Nathaniel helped to organize the Troy Cotton and Woolen Manufactory at the head of a stream on land owned by Simeon Borden.



Colonel Richard Borden
(1795-1874; 9th of 13)
m. Abby W. Durfee



Jefferson Borden, Sr.
(1801-1887; 12th of 13)
m. Susan Easton



Mary Borden
(1797-1863; 10th of 13)



Holder Borden
(1799-1837; 1st of 4)

Holder Borden, Fall River's premier entrepreneur, founded both the Iron Works and American Print. He directed the Massasoit, another early Fall River mill. He married off his sisters - Delana, Fidelia and Sylvia - to the Durfees - Dr. Nathan, Matthew C. and Joseph - respectively, and provided them with money to build houses. The three houses were built by Russell Warren; one, the Carr-Osborne house is still standing today.

Thomas J. Borden
(1832-1902; 2nd of 7)
m. Mary Hill

Thomas J. Borden helped spark Fall River's mill boom of the 1870s. Ten years earlier, he had been the agent and treasurer of the Troy Cotton and Woolen Manufacturing Company, enlarging that group of mills. In 1868 he set about organizing the Mechanics Mills and three years later, the Richard Borden Manufacturing Company. Between 1871 and 1876 Thomas Borden virtually controlled three large mill corporations - the Troy, the Mechanics and the Richard Borden Mill. In 1876 Thomas released control of these three corporations to become agent and director of the American Print Works.



Matthew C.D. Borden
(1842-1912; 6th of 7)
m. Harriet Durfee

During the financial panic of the 1870s, Matthew C.D. Borden was the driving force setting Fall River back on its path of upward expansion. M.C.D. Borden represented the Borden-Durfee interests in New York. He realigned the family businesses in Fall River making them satellites of New York. Associated with Low, Hamman and Company, a large New York firm merchandising textiles, he maintained the ascendancy of Borden interests in Fall River.

M.C.D. Borden allied himself with the Brayton brothers whose sister Mary had been Bradford Durfee's second wife after his marriage to Phoebe Borden. The Breytons founded the B.M.C. Durfee Trust Company. The financial backing from this bank built the Durfee Mill, first of a series in their family holdings. M.C.D. Borden made the B.M.C. Durfee Trust Company his chief financial agency in Fall River and relied heavily on the advice of the Braytons in his local operations. M.C.D. Borden converted the Iron Works totally to textiles and built the largest textile corporation in the U.S., operating about a million spindles before the first World War.

From the Robert K. Lamb essay *The Durfee-Borden Connection in Men in Business*, William Miller, ed.



Jefferson Borden, Jr.
(1844-1918; 5th of 9)
m. Ellen Westall

Jefferson Junior was responsible for introducing electricity into the Fall River mills. He was also a foremost designer of racing yachts, but his area of concern in Fall River centered around the mill supply business of Jefferson Borden and Sons.



Spencer Borden
(1849-1921)
m. Effie Brooks

Spencer established the Fall River Bleachery in 1872. He was also a renowned breeder of horses.



Jefferson Borden, III
(b. 1869)

Jefferson III became involved with his Uncle's Fall River Bleachery.



Spencer Borden, Jr.
(b. 1872)

Spencer Borden headed the Fall River Bleachery upon his father's death.



Bertram H. Borden
(b. 1868)
Howard S. Borden
(b. 1876)

These two brothers carried on the business concerns of their father in the American Printing Company and the Fall River Iron Works. In 1910, the firm of M.C.D. Borden and Sons was founded in New York City. This branch of the Borden family was drawn to New York.

Lesser Bordens



Richard Borden
(1752-1824)
m. Patty Bowen

This particular Richard Borden, who died in 1824, owned the Davenport Mill on the north bank of the stream at the second falls, according to Henry Earle in his *A Centennial of Fall River, Mass.* (1877). This later became the site of the Anawan Mill. In 1817 Richard was involved in something called "The Yellow Mill Company" which ran the first cotton mill in Fall River on land later occupied by the "Fall River Manufactory." This information is from an article in the *Fall River Daily Globe* concerning Hannah, Richard Borden's daughter, the first of the "power loom" weavers.

Richard died in 1824, intestate and in debt. His widow, Patty, reckoned his personal estate at \$1988.33 and his real estate at \$11,896. His indebtedness far exceeded his personal estate. The commissioners appointed by Judge Baylies to oversee the disposition of Richard's real estate appraised it at \$8,400. Patty settled for a third of this, \$2,800

es her widow's lot. Nephew Colonel Richard was one of the commissioners appointed by Judge Baylies. However, part of Richard's holdings were one half a "mill privilege" including the land of the mill site and water rights on the Quequechan, which were sold to his nephew, Colonel Richard Borden, for the sum of \$3080.91. This mill privilege could very well be what was described in the will of his father Richard (d. 1795) as ... I further give my two sons

Thomas and Richard my dam that is now begun, to be equally divided between them, and I further give my son Richard the privilege of building a wheat mill only on my stream in the upper place below the upper dam. All which I give my two sons, to them and their heirs and assigns forever ... This will is on record with the Registry of Probate and Deeds for Bristol County in Taunton, Mass. The significance of this transaction has yet to be gauged.



Abraham B. Borden
(1798-1882; 1st of 9)
m. 1. Phebe Davenport
2. Phebe Wilmarth

Although inconsistencies abound, Phebe Davenport bore all of Andrew's children. Her firstborn and only son was Andrew J. Her first daughter was Lurana (aka Charlotte) who died in infancy. Laure Ann was born in 1826. Her name also appears as Lurana in the Federal Census. In 1854 she married Hiram Harrington, a blacksmith. Phebe Davenport's youngest daughter surviving childhood, Phebe Ann, was born in 1829. She died in 1855, only two years after her mother's death.

"Bebe" Wilmarth was Abraham's companion in his old age. They were married in 1854. Most certainly she is the "Barbara Borden, wife of Abraham" listed in the Federal Census of 1860. (Ward 1, Page 42) By the 1870 Federal Census (Ward 1, Page 121), she had assumed her pet name "Bebe" (or "Beebe") found on her gravestone.



Andrew J. Borden
(1822-1892)
m. 1. Sarah J. Morse
2. Abby D. Gray

Andrew was the quintessential self-made man. In 1844 at the age of twenty-two, he formed a partnership with William M. Almy dealing in "furniture and feathers." Borden and Almy were also undertakers and their firm remained in business on Anawan Street for nearly thirty years. With the fortune amassed during three decades as an undertaker and furniture dealer, Andrew bought a substantial amount of real estate in Fall River. Through investments, he extended his financial influence in the city's mills such as the Globe Yarn Mills, the Troy Cotton and Woolen Manufacturing Company and the Merchants Manufacturing Company. By 1892 he was President and Director of the National Union Bank (Union Savings Bank), as well as a Director of the B.M.C. Durfee Safe Deposit Company. At one time Andrew controlled a large block of stock in the Globe Street Railway Company. Calculated in terms of land holdings and the value of his personal estate, Andrew was worth close to one-half million dollars at the time of his death.



Hannah Borden Cook was one of the first power loom weavers in Fall River. Fourteen-year-old Hannah was so fascinated by the new machines that she persuaded her father, Richard, to allow her to go to work in the Yellow Mill in which he was a large stockholder. Late in her life, in a February 27, 1889 *Fall River Globe* interview, she told of weaving on the large awkward looms which more often created a tangled web of yarn than whole cloth. Hannah was also something of an agitator. In the Yellow Mill, she said, a person could work from one end of the month to the end of another and never get a cent of cash. She said that if other folks were content to be cheated, she wouldn't stand for it. Wages were doled out as credit at the Company Store. Through a system of bookkeeping, which seemed devious to Hannah, she had found herself in debt to the Company. She requested to see the books and was refused. When her employer, Mr. David Anthony, intervened, he discovered that she had been routinely charged for items never received. Despite her negotiated settlement with the Company, Hannah wearied of being held in bondage to the Company Store. She wanted to be paid in cash, a proposal which caused Mr. Anthony to respond, "Why, if I give it to you, all the rest of 'em will want money, and I can't stand that. It would ruin me." Hannah said she would quit the mill, and the two struck an agreement for ten dollars a week. Hannah was married to William Cook, a housewright.

Cook prospered as a local businessman involved in lumber and coal at Bowenville. His sons, Theodore W., Philip H. and J.C. Borden, followed their father in this line of business, prosperous enough for Second Street, but still not textiles.

Zephaniah was a farmer who married off his daughter to Thomas Brayton in 1862.



Cook Borden
(1810-1880; 6th of 9)
m. Mary Bessey



Zephaniah Borden
(b. 1814; 8th of 9)
m. 1. Mary Perry
2. Lydia Shearmann

Richard Borden
(b. 1805; 4th of 9)
m. Lucy Cook

Richard Borden was listed as a farmer in the 1876 City Directory. His sons, Hiram C. and Charles W., were listed as a mariner and stonecutter respectively. There was not any listing for Nelson C., his third son.



Emma Borden



LIZZIE BORDEN

Using Lizzie In The Classroom

(Continued from Page 3.)

LIZZIE IN THE CLASSROOM

The first thing that a teacher planning a unit on Lizzie Borden must do is acquaint students with the details of the murder itself. This can be done by the teacher describing to the class what happened on the morning of August 4, 1892. Unfortunately, this can take up to two or three class periods. A more efficient way to introduce the material is to read aloud a short synopsis of the event as found, for example, in *The People's Almanac* (Vol. 1, Wallechinsky and Wallace, pps. 576-578, 1975) and *A Pictorial History of Crime* (Symons, Julian, pps. 58-59, 1966). Another strategy would be to give the article as a homework assignment, then answer class questions the following day. Also, students of all ages enjoy viewing the photographs of the mutilated bodies of Andrew and Abby Borden taken at the crime scene by the police photographer. Reproductions of many of these photos can be found in most books about the case, notably Frank Spiering's *Lizzie* (Random House, 1984) and David Kent's *New Evidence in the Life and Legend of Lizzie Borden* (Yankee Books, 1992). Putting some of these pictures on a large screen using an opaque or overhead projector will increase listener interest. Floor plans of the Second Street house, also found in almost all Borden books, will add to student interest, especially if duplicated and handed out.

After the case is discussed and student presentations, if any, are given, conclude the lesson by showing a video about the case. If you can get permission, *The Legend of Lizzie Borden* starring Elizabeth Montgomery is entertaining, although perhaps a bit long at almost two hours. Two shorter documentary videos are cable television station A&E's study of the murder on an episode of *Biography* (1995) and Kenneth J. Souza's *Lizzie Borden: A Century of Fascination* available for sale through the Fall River Historical Society in Fall River, Massachusetts.

As a final surprise, tell the students that you are going to play a Top 40 record from 1961 about the case, then play a copy of *The Ballad of Lizzie Borden* by The Chad Mitchell Trio. Although the record is over thirty years old, it is still easily available as a 45 rpm, on numerous albums as well as on cassettes and CD's, all of which can be found in most record stores.

At the junior and senior high levels, different subjects could use the Borden murder in different ways. History classes, for instance, might stress yellow journalism and its relation to the Gilded Age. Classes in American government could focus on the trial. Math or science students might experiment with the angles of the wounds or the arc of the blood drops or the forensics of the case. English classes could analyze a book or a play on the murders. Drafting classes could construct a replica of the Borden house.

If this author's experience with using the Lizzie Borden murder case as a teaching tool towards increasing interest in American history or related subjects is any indication, the kids should love it. And so should you!

LIZBITS

(Continued from Page 5.)

On page 174 we learn for the first time that soon after the trial, Dr. Bowen retired and spent the rest of his life as a gentleman of leisure.

In another instance, Mr. Brown seems to contradict himself. He tells us on page 41 that Emma "never in her adult life had been away from home for as long as overnight." However, see page 112 for a report of her visits out of town of several nights duration.

I don't mean to be picking apart the Brown book, and I'm sure Mr. Brown has a logical explanation, but I wonder where he got the impression that Harrington, "in spite of his Irish name was accepted by the Hill," or that he lived on Turner Street, (page 118) since the City Directory lists his address as being on Franklin Street. (Both locations are "below the Hill").

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THE

LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

JAN 31 1997

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Volume III, Number 4

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October, 1996

What's In A Name?:

HONORING MRS. FLORENCE COOK BRIGHAM

by Maynard F. Bertolet

It has been said that if you talk to ten different Borden case enthusiasts, you will come away with ten different versions of how the murders were committed. I don't know about that, but I do know that none dispute the courtesy afforded, the inspiration imparted and the touching word descriptions freely given over the years by Mrs. Florence Brigham, Past-Curator of the *Fall River Historical Society*. It is for these, and many other reasons, that this issue of the *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* is being dedicated to that lovely lady. It was our great pleasure to visit Mrs. Brigham recently and talk to her for more than two hours. As we trod the walk to her grand home, seemingly transplanted from the nineteenth century, it was as if a layer of years had evaporated and we were ushered back into the Victorian era. She shared not only things about Miss Emma and Miss Lizzie, but also gave us a birds-eye view into a life that has gathered the wisdom of her 96 years, nurtured the luster of her times, and is able to pass it all on, unchanged, to whomever she touches. We would like to share a portion of that afternoon and this remarkable woman's life with you. However, before we get to that, let's go back more than 130 years,



Miss Florence Cook, 1919

Photograph reproduced courtesy of Mrs. Florence Cook Brigham

before Mrs. Brigham and before those horrific events that were to leave such a great impact on her world, and ours

THE BEGINNING OF OUR STORY

The early 1860's was a time of old unrest and new beginnings. Abraham Lincoln became our President and the

Civil War was blazing. People were singing *The Battle Cry of Freedom*, Stephen Foster's *Beautiful Dreamer* and a song that would carry us through future wars, *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*. Treasury note "Greenbacks" (so called because they were printed with green ink) were first issued as a war measure for legal tender. Years before the American Red Cross, President Lincoln put Clara Barton in charge of the search for missing soldiers. Tom Thumb got married! West Virginia was admitted as the 35th state. The United States issued its first 2¢ postage stamp, a black adhesive with a portrait of Andrew Jackson and on Thursday, July 19, 1860 at 12 Ferry Street in Fall River, Massachusetts a certain Miss Lizzie Andrew Borden was born. It was against the fabric of these times that Mary Ella Sheen's grandparents, with their four girls and several boys, came over from Scotland and stayed in Fall River.

THE BRIGHAM SIDE

Mary Ella Sheen grew up in Fall River, met and fell in love with George Sewell Brigham, who was Auditor for the mills. They were married in 1886 and lived at 213 Belmont Street, right around the corner from Miss Lizbeth Borden's home *Maplecroft* on French Street.

(Continued on Page 14.)

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

September 8, 1996

Dear Editor:

Every once in a while I get an idea - some good, some bad. This is one of those days.

I have always felt that a lot of conjecture and pure nonsense has been written about the Borden case and perhaps it might be a good idea to have a column in the Quarterly entitled "Truth Or Nonsense" or "Fact Versus Fiction" or some other similar title. You can then encourage readers to submit their stories. As a starter I am enclosing two items for your consideration. I would like to hear your thoughts.

Best regards,

Robert A. Flynn

(Editor's note: A great idea! Please see my letter on the facing page.)

THE LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY

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MISS LIZBETH BORDEN'S EDITOR SPEAKS

I would like to share with you some serious mailing problems experienced with the last issue, July, 1996. We were assured by our printer, *Leary Press*, that all copies were mailed on July 10, 1996. Past experience would seem to indicate that the *LBQ* should have been in your hands by July 20th at the latest.

Unfortunately, this was not the case. I received 28 contacts from subscribers indicating they never received their *LBQ*, or, they were received more than 30 days late. This was especially aggravating since August is the month when most Borden activities occur, and the problems precluded many from being a part of those activities. If you did not receive a copy, please write to the Publisher and one will be mailed immediately.

The best ideas for the *Quarterly* come from our readers. Well-known rare-book dealer Robert Flynn came up with one in a letter that is printed on the facing page. The new *Fact or Fantasy* column puts his idea in effect. Let's see if we can get some stories from you and keep it going

Please check your address labels to see how many copies remain on your subscription. If the label indicates **Remaining Copies: 0**, renew today and make certain your subscription remains unbroken.

The *Coming Events* column has been temporarily suspended. Most Lizzie Borden activities occur in August and none have been reported for the next quarter. When the "Lizzie Season" approaches, we shall reactivate the column. In the meantime, if you find out about any events that may have readership appeal, please let us know and they will be published. If any important events are made known in between issues, we shall make you aware by a special mailing. In the meantime, thanks for listening. See you next year and, keep your powder dry and your hatchet whetted.

Maynard F. Bertolet
Editor

THE PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

Our Editor, Maynard F. Bertolet, and I have agreed to my submitting an article from time to time. As our masthead indicates, Maynard works out of Merion Station, Pennsylvania (an exquisite spot on Philadelphia's Main Line very close to the Barnes Museum) and I work out of Fall River, Massachusetts. I think you've heard of Fall River.

I serve from time to time on the Fall River Chamber of Commerce Committee on Tourism and am close to all local Lizzie-related developments. There are some local developments that should interest our readers. But first of all, I must recognize a man without whose help our April 1996 cover story could not have been written. That man is the Reverend George Foley of Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland.

Father Foley (Order of the Sacred Hearts) is a dear family friend, and while Maynard was kind enough to acknowledge my wife's locating Mr. Riobard O'Dwyer, Margaret and I must confess that Father Foley knows O'Dwyer, and indeed, was the one who put us in touch with him. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him.

I would also like to thank the 1992 Lizzie Borden Conference at Bristol Community College that allowed Lizzie to come out of her well-guarded closet in Fall River, and even though there are still no municipal signs identifying Borden sites in Fall River, she is now publicly recognized as the city's most famous (or infamous) citizen. She is also recognized as the prime tourist attraction, and Fall River wants tourists. The Chamber of Commerce has produced a charming pamphlet entitled *The History, The Mystery and The Sea* which features Lizzie's face in the middle of the cover. The Chamber has also done another flyer devoted to just the Borden sites. Our girl is not only out of the closet, but thanks to TILBA, can be seen in costume walking the streets of Fall River and appearing at important local events, as she was at the September 29, 1996 celebration of Bristol Community College's 30th anniversary.

Having mentioned Borden sites, here are some interesting developments. As reported in the July, 1996 *LBQ*, the *Lizzie Borden Bed & Breakfast* at 92 Second Street is off and running. The house was restored in traditional decor, and while some critics think it's a little too bright, we must keep in mind that the wall paper, paint and fixtures are brand new. I am pleased that the architectural integrity of the building has been preserved. Martha McGinn, one of the owners, tells me that all manner of mysterious and ghostly events have taken place since it was opened to the public on August 4. I have not yet seen Lizzie's ghost. But when I do, you will be the first to know -- well, after my psychiatrist.

If you would like to own a major part of the Borden Legend, Maplecroft and Andrew's Swansea farm (the one across the river) are for sale. How about that?

Thank you for reading the *LBQ*, and keep in mind that your letters, inquiries and article suggestions are always welcome.

Jules R. Ryckebusch
Publisher

THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN

by Lisa Zawadzki

Hello again, loyal readers! Another busy few months for me, I've just moved the Bibliographic Borden archives (and myself along with them) to new quarters. But never fear, I have good things to share with everyone. So let's get started.

INN COLD BLOOD

People Weekly, August 5, 1996: 65.

The opening of the murder house as a bed and breakfast got a great deal of attention. I was surprised to see this article in People. I expected the local papers and maybe the TV news, (both of which occurred), but somehow, coverage in this big national gossip magazine didn't seem likely.

Nevertheless, the event got a good one-page treatment with a nice interior shot of the house. It was mentioned that the owners studied the crime-scene photos to recreate the interior accurately. The uncredited reporter even put in a couple of bad jokes. No great theories were advanced, just a quick mention of an interesting happening.

I AM THE MURDERER

Pawtuxet Valley Daily Times, August 19, 1892

This intriguing report from the past came from my local newspaper. Apparently this man was one of those people who liked to confess to crimes for whatever reasons. A Mr. Charles H. Peckham turned himself in to the Fall River Police, saying he killed the Bordens "out of pure love for blood". The man then went on to describe his murderous actions.

Assistant Marshall Fleet, while noting the gentleman answered in a "coherent and intelligible manner", felt Mr. Peckham was probably an innocent, if unbalanced, person. Mr. Peckham was then searched and locked up. Fleet then telephoned the mayor of New Bedford, where Peckham resided, to inquire about the man's character. (Apparently he was one.) Andrew Jennings was also provided with news of this confession. Mr. Peckham's eventual fate was not mentioned.

An interesting note, the article immediately after this one revealed that Chief Hilliard of the Fall River P.D. had taken a squad of officers to Steep Brook, just outside the city, to hunt for a man with blood on his clothes. The stranger was threatening villagers with an axe and demanding food.

Paine, Donald F.

LIZZIE BORDEN'S TRIAL REVISITED

Tennessee Bar Journal, May/June 1993: 29,34.

Mr. Paine, a lawyer, wrote this excellent short piece asking

"Did the jurors get it wrong?" He weighed some of the evidence and performance presented to them by both the prosecution and the defense.

The State of Massachusetts offered the axe, the prussic acid, the inquest testimony, and the burned dress. There were, the author notes, problems with each of these issues. Furthermore, the jury never got to hear much of this information.

The defense had also had witnesses that the jury never heard. Paine does note that the defense scored with the witnesses who did testify. Lizzie was shown as a lady of good reputation with no history of violence at all. The author felt the defense's best argument was the lack of blood on Miss Lizzie.

While Paine disagreed with some of the trial procedure, he concluded that, based on the evidence that the jury did get to hear, there was reasonable doubt of Miss Lizzie's guilt. Still unsure if Lizzie was actually guilty or not, the author felt the jury got the right verdict after all.

Vandome, Nick

BORDEN CASE

In *Crime and Criminals*

Edinburgh, Scotland:

Chambers, 1992: 34-35.

The Borden case gets a lot of coverage in British true crime collections. This was another brief account of the events. Vandome played loose with a few facts. Lizzie was said to have died "alone and uncared for" in 1927. Maybe Emma and many of her friends had departed by this time, but Lizzie certainly had enough servants and friends left to keep her company and care for her.

He seemed to feel that either Lizzie or Bridget must have been involved, stating that it was impossible for them not to have heard anything. This was a somewhat less-than-average retelling. Other authors have made better summaries of the case.

Gross, Gerald, ed.

MASTERPIECES OF MURDER

An Edmund Lester Pearson True Crime Reader

New York: Bonanza Books, 1963

Now we get to the essentials. If you haven't read this book, it will be well worth your time to seek it out. It is a wonderful anthology of the crime writings of one of my favorite librarians, Mr. Edmund Lester Pearson. Love him or hate him, he is mandatory reading for all Borden followers.

(Continued on Page 17.)

by Neilson Caplain

SECOND STREET IN 1892

I am engaged in an endeavor to recreate Second Street as it appeared in the time of the murders. For the first step, I scanned the entire City Directory of 1892, listing the names of the occupants at each address. Secondly, I extracted from each of the principal books on the Borden case the authors' comments and descriptions of that thoroughfare. Still to be done is to study all the pictures in the Fall River Historical Society of the contemporary scene on Second Street.

I understand that others are working on a similar project and, hopefully, we will be able to compare notes.

Following are some of the comments of various authors:

The authors of *Lizzie Borden: A Casebook of Family and Crime in the 1890's* wrote, "Formerly a fashionable address, the neighborhood had deteriorated"

Porter wrote on Page 8 of his *Fall River Tragedy*, "Hundreds of vehicles and numberless people pass and repass daily," the impression being that the street was a principal commercial one.

Agnes de Mille described the area (Page 93) as once being a shady residential street occupied by neighbors equally well-to-do. "Across the way, Dr. Seabury Bowen's mansion spread in his garden." But by the time of the Borden's day the neighborhood became unfashionable and the trees and gardens disappeared.

There were several stables located on Second Street, opposite and north of the Borden home. At the trial, Mrs. Churchill testified that the street was very noisy, so much so that when the windows were open in her house next door to the Borden residence, she could not hear the normal sounds. Miss de Mille wrote (Page 94), "there was no masking traffic sounds, wagon wheels, the blacksmith further down the road."

If Second Street had indeed lost its genteel nature, some of the streets immediately adjoining were certainly residential in nature. Cook Borden, a rich man by any measure, built his mansion at 44 Fourth Street, just two blocks from the Borden house. Mr. Borden was no longer living, but his son, Jerome C. Borden, who supported Lizzie at the trial, and who was considered in the top echelon of Fall River society, still maintained his residence there.

There were other fine homes on Second Street itself. Next door to the Andrew Borden home was the Buffinton house, built by the first Mayor of the city and still occupied by his daughter. On the other side, to the south, lived Dr. Kelly, a member of the medical profession. The second house to the south was occupied by the grocery store of Vernon Wade, over which a Chace family lived. Directly across the street, Number 93, was occupied by Southard Miller, an outstanding citizen, and his son, the artist, Franklin H. Miller. In the same house, a double one, resided Dr. Bowen.

In conclusion, and continuing the quote in *The Case Book*, ".... but some large, once-attractive homes, testified to the past prosperity of the street."

MODERN NOVELS

I am an avid reader and every so often come across a reference to Lizzie Borden in books, old and new. This is further evidence of the universal and continuing appeal of our infamous heroine. Incidents that immediately come to mind follow:

The novel, *Massachusetts*, by Nancy Zaroulis devotes a full paragraph to the famous 1892 murders, a paragraph that is no proof of Ms. Zaroulis' knowledge of the case, for it contains several errors of fact. It egregiously attributes the name of Asa to Lizzie's father. It mentions a fence that fronted Maplecroft, although I have never read that such a fence existed.

In another novel, *True Colors* by Doris Mortman, there is only scant mention of Lizzie. "Nice job, Lizzie Borden," he exclaimed to express disgust with the TV hostess who batters her guest, her sister no less, in revenge for an imagined wrong.

The courtroom drama by Barry Reed, *The Indictment*, contains this line, "No quarrel, Your Honor. The rubber hoses in the back rooms went out with the Lizzie Borden case." The statement is made by an attorney, but what the relevance to the Lizzie Borden case is, he would find it hard to explain, for, as we well know, there were no rubber hoses in back rooms of the Borden house.



My very good friend, Bob Flynn, in the goodness of his heart, gave me a 1924 book entitled *Episodes Before Thirty* by one Algernon Blackwood. Although the mention of Lizzie is brief, it is nonetheless interesting because the author takes the liberty of stripping Lizzie of her clothes in order to avoid tell-tale blood spattering. Not a new concept, for Elizabeth Montgomery did it in the movie, *The Legend of Lizzie Borden*. However, Blackwood antedates the movie by a good many years.

Readers are invited to send in other examples and credit will be given in further LizBits articles.

(Editor's note: Mail may be sent to Mr. Caplain, or any other LBQ contributor, in care of the Editor, address on page 2.)

THE MOST SENSATIONAL HOMICIDE?

by David Bates

(Editor's note: As promised in the November, 1995 LBQ, this article completes the trilogy comparing the 19th century Lizzie Borden and the 20th century O.J. Simpson trials. It had been scheduled to be printed in the April, 1996 issue, but was deferred due to space limitations. Mr. Bates submitted his manuscript during the Simpson trial. When I wrote to him about publishing his article, my letter was returned by the Postal System with an indication that the forwarding order had expired. If any reader knows his current address, please notify me.)

Until recently, the most celebrated murder in U.S. history occurred in 1892. It involved an upstanding citizen with an impeccable reputation who was accused of using a sharp instrument to brutally murder two people. Sound familiar? Robert Flynn, who has written three books, and published six, on the Fall River tragedy, sees many parallels between Lizzie Borden's purported murderous assault on her father and step-mother and O.J. Simpson's alleged killing of his former wife and her friend. While the public-at-large waits for the great bulk of information on the murder of Nicole Simpson and Ronald Goldman to be released, based on what has been previously reported, experts agree that the unusual amount of parallels between the two cases range from the ferocity of the attack, the number of victims and suspects, the protected, elite class both defendants came from, to the circumstantial nature of the evidence and missing murder weapon. Is the O.J. case a Lizzie redux?

The child-like rhyme that begins, "Lizzie Borden took an ax", reminds us of the ferocity with which Lizzie Borden was said to have attacked her father and stepmother one hot August morning. The June 27 issue of *Time Magazine* mimics the essence of the rhyme when it reports that Ronald Goldman's body had been punctured by "twenty-two knife wounds" and that Nicole Simpson's head had been "severed to the spinal cord". Robert Flynn points out, "The fact that two people were brutally murdered and there's only one suspect" is an unusual occurrence in crime. That similarly may have helped both murders on their way to media notoriety.

Yet, the most compelling reason for the wide interest in both these dramas stems not from the inordinate number of stab wounds the victims received, but from the unusual stature of the defendants. Lizzie was part of the extended family that helped build the mill town of Fall River. Although Andrew Borden hadn't done as well as other members of his illustrious family, he was a self-made man and a bank president whose fortune has been estimated to be worth as much as \$12 million in today's money. People were intrigued by the Borden's wealth, but what really detonated universal appeal for the case seems to have been Lizzie's gender. "A lot of people couldn't believe that a woman would take up a hatchet," says Dennis Binette, a staff member of the *Fall River Historical Society*, who assisted in editing the collection of *The Knowlton Papers* and who points out that in the Victorian Age women were looked upon as delicate, and if they

murdered, they did so with "poison". Robert Flynn adds that, at the time the charges were pressed, Lizzie was of "untarnished reputation, a pillar of the church." The protected stratum of one of the greatest running backs of all time comes not only from his wealth, but also from his celebrity status. Celebrities are another segment of society for whom doors are held open and special consideration given. As one person responded when asked why he was interested in the recent double murder, "Because it's O.J."

Although the Los Angeles District Attorney revealed what was in his bag of evidence, no one ever stepped forward to report they saw O.J. commit the murders. The same was true a hundred years ago. The prosecution relied on circumstantial evidence to point the finger of guilt at Lizzie Borden. Lacking witnesses, softer evidence was used to cast a guilty shadow on the defendant. One example of such evidence, also a parallel, is the report of O.J. visiting a knife store shortly before the killings. A century ago a druggist put suspicion on Lizzie by stating that a week before the mutilated bodies of Andrew and Abby Borden were discovered, she had tried to purchase poison from him (the druggist's testimony was ruled inadmissible). Now, if they weren't planning on committing some dastardly deed, what were these two good people doing wanting to purchase instruments of destruction?

This type of logic is more malleable and can work equally well for the defense. One of the cornerstones of Lizzie's public argument was that no one could explain how she could have committed so vicious a murder and not gotten blood all over her clothing. Alice Russell tried to clear this up when she testified that some days after the crime, Lizzie had mysteriously put a dress, that she claimed she had gotten paint on, into the stove. Years later, a TV docudrama tried to explain away this troublesome fact by acting out the theory that Lizzie committed the murders while naked. If the confirmation of bloody clothing follows the path of the ski mask, O.J.'s public defense will soon beg the question how could he have stabbed Ronald Goldman twenty-two times and nearly decapitated his ex-wife, then get home and be on a plane so quickly. No one has changed their appearance that fast since Clark Kent entered a phone booth and came out Superman.

Then there's the other big hole in the prosecution's case against O.J. - the missing murder weapon. A little over a hundred years ago, authorities located several hatchets on the Borden premises. One was shown to be consistent (in length) with the wounds of the victims, but was never scientifically proven to be the murder weapon. Through the years, experts on Lizzie have argued for and against the hatchet. Not too long ago, Robert Flynn wrote an article about a hatchet found on the roof of Lizzie's neighbor's house, a month after her acquittal. In O.J.'s case, authorities as well have yet to find a murder weapon. This time, however, theorists have a much larger geographical terrain to work with. In the hours that followed the crime, the former running back traveled two-thirds the width of the nation and back. If the large knife that the prosecution claims O.J. used to commit the crime is never found, like his famous predecessor, all sorts of theories will abound as to what he may have done with it.

(Continued on Page 19.)

A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR LIZZIE!

It was such a surprise to receive it in the mail. Imagine that! After all these years Lizzie was being honored by a family member. It was Emma who mailed the invitation, and we were all invited to a Birthday Party in honor of Lizzie Borden's 32nd birthday on Friday, July 19, 1996. It seemed like the sisters had something else planned too. The fine print mentioned they were planning a surprise for Father and Mrs. Borden in August! We all wondered what that might be.



Martha McGinn and Ron Evans
Co-Owners of 92 Second Street

Photograph reproduced courtesy of Jeannine H. Bertolet.

Tell me true, how could any of us pass up such an opportunity! Yes, it was a bit tongue-in-cheek, but the fact remains that this was the first time ever the house at 92 Second Street was opened to the public? So, what else could we do but make the trip to Fall River?

The night in question finally arrived and we were welcomed outside the front door by Mr. Andrew Borden himself. Inside, Emma made us welcome and we saw many familiar faces. Our publisher Jules Ryckebusch was there as well as the house co-owners Martha McGinn and Ron Evans.

It was obvious that the owners had not spared any expense to restore the property with all that modern technology has to offer, while at the same time maintaining the era and persona of the 1892 Borden family. Good taste, planning and forethought were evident throughout. No doubt much of the credit can be given to the creative touch of Co-Manager Rochelle St. Martin-Pettenati.

The dining room table was laden with food that was, perhaps, not the standard Borden bill-of-fare. It was fresh, appetizing and there was a variety that appealed to every taste. In addition, there was a large birthday cake proclaiming "Happy 32nd Birthday Lizzie." A frosted pear graced each corner with a picture of Lizzie herself in the center.

The climax of the evening was a Play, "Surprise, Lizzie!" written by Deborah Ali, that took us from room to room. As the plot evolved, so did our awareness of every nook and cranny. It was most satisfying to be able to ramble through those rooms that were closed to the public for these many years

The best news of all is that we are all offered the opportunity to "see for yourself!" In addition to the Bed & Breakfast being open, tours are conducted twice daily. So come on! Next time you're in town, drop in and say hello to Ron and Martha.

(Editor's note: Please see the advertisement on the back cover.)



"Surprise, Lizzie!" Cast

Lizzie Borden (Deborah Ali) once more on the staircase!
With, Left to Right, Jeanne St. Martin, Kathie Goncalo (Emma Borden),
Stasia Toomey (Mrs. Abby Borden), George Quigley (Andrew Borden) and
Michelle Corvelo (Bridget Sullivan)

Photograph reproduced courtesy of Jeannine H. Bertolet.

FINALLY - THE REAL TRUTH

- Anonymous -

It was really all a misunderstanding!

One day, Mrs. Borden called Lizzie and said, "I'd like to surprise your father by doing something about those rusty old axes and hatchets in the cellar. But eight sick friends have sent me notes today and it will take up all my time to visit them. As a Fall River spinster of leisure, couldn't you go over to the hardware store to see if they have something that will help? Afterwards we'll get Maggie to do the work."

"Certainly, Mother dear," Lizzie replied; and took one of the dingiest axes with her to show the store owner what they needed.

"Well, Miss Borden," the hardware man responded after studying the axe, "you are very fortunate to be living in these modern times, nearly at the start of the 20th century. We have just gotten in a new product, a line of metal polishes, which should do the trick for you, and they require very little rubbing but protect the metal very well. Indeed, they even have different grades of shininess for the final surface appearance. See the rows of cans on this shelf? You choose the '10' grade if you want no shine at all; and you choose the '50' grade if you want a really shiny finish."

Lizzie pondered this choice for a while. "I imagine that Mummy and Daddy would like the tools to be rather shiny, but perhaps not too shiny," she told him.

And that's the real story about how Lizzie Borden took an axe and gave her mother '40' wax.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LIZZIE BORDEN CONNECTION

PART TWO

By William Schley-Ulrich

August 5, 1892 Friday

The *Fall River Herald* carried the following banner:

\$5,000

REWARD

THE ABOVE REWARD WILL BE PAID TO
ANY ONE WHO MAY SECURE THE
ARREST AND CONVICTION

of the person or persons who occasioned the
death of

MR. ANDREW J. BORDEN AND HIS WIFE

EMMA J. BORDEN

LIZZIE A. BORDEN

*

Rumors were rampant over the identity of the murderers.

The *Fall River Globe* published the following article:

"What did Lizzie Want of Poison?"

*

"Eli Bence, a pharmacist employed at Smith's Drugstore, identified Lizzie as the woman who had attempted to buy poison from him on the Wednesday before the murders. She had requested a quantity of prussic acid, one of the quickest-acting and deadliest poisons known, which Mr. Bence refused to sell to her. Prussic acid (hydrocyanic acid) has the odor of bitter almonds and is generally used in mining, metallurgy and as an insecticide and fumigant."

*

Following this disclosure, additional police were assigned to control the crowd outside the Borden home. Mr. Hanscom, a Boston Pinkerton man, was retained by the Borden's family lawyer to conduct a private investigation. All of the leading newspapers from the neighboring states had picked up the story of the killings and their reporters began arriving at the Fall River train station in record numbers. A newsman from a New York newspaper offered a \$500 reward if anyone could produce the note sent to Abby Borden on the day of her murder. There were no takers.

August 6, 1892 Saturday

Following a brief funeral service at the Borden home, the burial of the murdered couple was held at the family plot in the

Oak Grove Cemetery. An unruly crowd consisting of several hundred people lined the path of the procession and had to be restrained by the police. Unknown to the Bordens and the townspeople, the bodies were not immediately interred. They were secreted in a funeral vault and after the mourners had departed a second autopsy was performed by the Boston Medical Examiner and two attending physicians.

The corpses of Andrew and Abby were decapitated. The heads were boiled and scraped, removing all of the tissue and exposing the bare skulls so nearly destroyed by the murderer's hatchet. The grisly relics were then shipped off to the Harvard Medical Laboratory. The Borden sisters were never notified this action had been taken.

August 7, 1892 Sunday

Lizzie Borden stood on tip-toe and removed a garment from the top shelf of the kitchen cupboard. She began tearing it into small pieces.

"What are you going to do?," asked her sister.

"I am going to tear this old thing up," said Lizzie, "it is covered with paint."

Emma made no comment.

Alice Russell later testified she was in the kitchen and overheard the conversation. "I wouldn't let anybody see me do that, Lizzie," said Alice. Lizzie made no reply, but continued to tear the dress into shreds.

Later that morning, Alice spoke to Lizzie in the dining room. "I am afraid, Lizzie, the worse thing you could have done was to burn that dress. I have been asked about your dresses."

"Oh," said Lizzie, "what made you let me do it! Why didn't you tell me?"

August 9, 1892 Tuesday

Josiah C. Blaisdell, judge of the Second District Court of Bristol County, scheduled the Borden inquest for Tuesday, August 9th at the Fall River Police Station. Lizzie Borden gave testimony on the first day of the hearing.

Her interrogator, Hosea M. Knowlton, was the District Attorney for the state of Massachusetts.

Q. "Give me your full name."

A. "Lizzie Andrew Borden."

Q. "You were so christened?"

A. "I was."



Q. "What is your age?"
A. "Thirty-two."
Q. "Your mother is not living?"
A. "She died when I was two years of age."
Q. "When did your father remarry?"
A. "My father and stepmother were married twenty-seven years ago."
Q. "How wealthy was your father?"
A. "I have no idea how much my father was worth. I have never heard him specify an amount. I do know something about the value of the real estate my father owned."
Q. "Did you ever deed him any property?"
A. "He gave some land to Emma and me, but my father bought it back. We had no other transactions with him."
Q. "Did you know of anyone your father had trouble with?"
A. "There was a man who came to our house some weeks ago. They argued and my father ordered him out of the house. I do not know his name."
Q. "Did you ever have any trouble with your mother?"
A. "She is not my mother, sir. She is my stepmother. My mother died when I was a child."
Q. "Well, then, did you ever have any trouble with your stepmother?"
A. "Yes. About five years ago."
Q. "What was it about?"
A. "About my stepmother's stepsister, Mrs. George Whitehead. It was simply a difference of opinion."
Q. "Were you always cordial with your stepmother?"
A. "That depends upon one's idea of cordiality. I did not regard her as my mother, though she came there when I was young. I decline to say whether my relations between her and myself were those of mother and daughter or not. I called her Mrs. Borden, and sometimes mother. I stopped calling her mother after the affair regarding her sister-in-law."
Q. "Can you tell us more?"
A. "I always went to my sister. She was older than I was. I believe that my father and stepmother were happily united. I never knew of any difficulty between them, and they always seemed to be affectionate. On Wednesday evening the day before they were killed, I didn't feel well all day and I didn't come down for dinner. I first saw my father Thursday morning when I came downstairs. He was reading the *Providence Journal*. I saw my mother with a dust cloth in her hand. Maggie (Bridget Sullivan) was putting a cloth into a mop. My father went downtown after 9 o'clock, as was his habit. I think I was reading when he returned. I am not sure that I was in the kitchen when he returned. I don't know where Maggie was, I think she let my father in, he had forgotten his key. I think I went upstairs when my father came in. I last saw my mother when I was downstairs. She was dusting the dining room."
Q. "I ask you what your stepmother was doing from the time you saw her until 11 o'clock."
A. "When I first came downstairs that morning, I saw Maggie coming in from the yard. She had been ill. My mother asked how I was feeling. My father was sitting

there, reading."
Q. "Didn't you say that you were standing on the stairs when your father came back from his business calls?"
A. "I did not. I was in the kitchen when he came in or in one of the three rooms, the dining room, kitchen or sitting room. It would have been difficult for anybody to pass through these rooms unless they passed through while I was in the dining room. So far as I know I was alone in the house while my father was away. I was eating a pear when my father came in. When I went to the barn to look for sinkers I left him on the sofa. I unhooked the screen door when I went out."
Q. "How long do you think you were occupied in looking for sinkers?"
A. "About fifteen or twenty minutes."
Q. "What time did you go out into the barn?"
A. "About as near as I can recollect, about 10 o'clock."
Q. "When were you going fishing?"
A. "The next Monday, down at the farm in Swansea."
Q. "What happened when you returned from the barn?"
A. "I returned from the barn and put my head in the sitting room. I found my father's body and called Maggie. I made no effort to find my mother at all. I sent Maggie for Dr. Bowen."
Q. "What did your mother say when you last saw her?"
A. "She told me she had a note and was going out. She said she would get the dinner. When I found my father I did not think of Mrs. Borden, for I believed she was out. I left the screen door closed when I left and it was open when I came from the barn. I have no idea when my father came home, I went right to the barn. I don't remember his being in the sitting room. I think I was in there when I asked him if there was any mail. I do not think he went upstairs. Mrs. Borden's father's house was for sale on Fourth Street. My father bought Mrs. Borden's half-sister's share and gave it to her. We thought what he did for her people he ought to do for his own, and then he gave us Grandfather's house."
Q. "What dress were you wearing that morning?"
A. "The dress I wore that forenoon was a white and blue stripe of some sort. It is at home in the attic. I did not go to Smith's drug store to buy prussic acid. I did not go into the rooms where my father and mother lay after the murders."
Q. "Do you have any suspicions as to who might have committed the crime?"
A. "Yes, one night not long ago, I was coming home and saw the shadow of a man on the house at the east end. I hurried into the house. It was about 8:45 o'clock."
Q. "Who suggested the reward offered, you or your sister?"
A. "I don't know. I may have."

*

This was the only statement of any nature given by Lizzie Borden regarding the blood-curdling murder of her parents. Ten months later at her trial, the testimony she had presented at the inquest was ruled inadmissible.

(Continued on next page.)

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At the conclusion of the inquest, Judge Blaisdell issued a warrant for the arrest of Lizzie Borden. Up to this time the authorities had found no evidence pointing to an outside agency in the commission of the crime. Increasing public opinion and the testimony of the balance of the witnesses at the inquest pointed the ugly finger of suspicion at one person alone, Lizzie Andrew Borden. The warrant was served outside the police station by Marshal Rufus B. Hilliard.

"I have here a warrant for your arrest for the murder of Andrew J. Borden. Do you wish it read?"

Upon advice from her counsel, Andrew Jennings, Lizzie waived the reading. "You need not read it," she said.

August 12, 1892 Friday

Lizzie Borden was arraigned before Judge Blaisdell at the Fall River District Court at 10 o'clock in the morning. The heavy rain did not deter the large crowd that had collected outside the courthouse. Mr. Jennings and Reverend E.A. Buck accompanied Lizzie into the courtroom. She stood before the judge while the clerk read the warrant.

"What is your plea?," asked the clerk.

"Not guilty," answered Lizzie in a clear, firm voice. The crime of murder was not aailable offense and Lizzie was



remanded to the Taunton Jail. Ten months later, on June 5, 1893, she would go on trial for her life. The penalty for a guilty verdict would be death by hanging.

August 22, 1892 Monday

Lizzie was transported from the Taunton Jail to the Central Police Station at Fall River for the probable cause hearing. While there she was placed under the supervision of Police Matron Hannah Reagan.

August 24, 1892 Wednesday

Mrs. Reagan reported overhearing the following exchange between Lizzie Borden and her sister, Emma:

"Emma, you've given me away, haven't you?"

"No, Lizzie, I have not."

"You have," said Lizzie. "But you'll see; I won't give in one inch."

This incriminating conversation was revealed by Mrs. Reagan to Edwin H. Porter, a reporter. It was published that day in the Fall River Globe.

August 25, 1892 Thursday

The preliminary hearing lasted for six days. Lizzie Borden was represented by her counsel, Andrew Jennings and Colonel Melvin O. Adams of Boston, a former District Attorney for Suffolk County. Twenty-two witnesses were called by District Attorney Knowlton for the prosecution. At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge Blaisdell determined Lizzie Borden was probably guilty of the murder of Andrew and Abby Borden and bound her over for the next Grand Jury without bail. Lizzie was returned to the Taunton Jail.

November 7, 1892 Monday

The Grand Jury of Bristol County assembled on the 7th of November. The last week of the sitting was to be devoted to consideration of the charge of murder against Lizzie Borden.

December 2, 1892 Friday

Three indictments of murder were handed down against Lizzie Borden by the Grand Jury; one each for the murder of her father and mother and a separate indictment for the murder of both of them. The trial was set for June 5, 1893 in the city of New Bedford.

April 1, 1893 Saturday

Sherlock Holmes arrived in Montpelier, Vermont, to begin work on a secret coal-tar formula.

May 8, 1893 Monday

Lizzie Borden appeared in the New Bedford Courthouse for her arraignment.

May 26, 1893 Friday

(The following letter was sent this date to Sherlock Holmes in Montpelier, Vermont by Charles Holmes, a prominent resident of Fall River.)

Dear Cousin Sherlock,

I posted a letter to your London residence, as in the past, which was intercepted by Mycroft. I was unaware of your self-imposed exile. Imagine my surprise when I discovered you were only a few hundred miles away!

Your brother has provided me with your address in Vermont

after stipulating that the confidentiality of your mission and your whereabouts must be preserved at all costs.

A dear friend of mine is in desperate trouble. I am sure you have heard of the terrible tragedy that occurred in Fall River last August. There has been little else in our local newspapers for the past eight months. I am as convinced of Lizzie Borden's innocence as I am of my own; unfortunately, my opinion carries little weight with the local authorities.

Lizzie will go on trial for her life on Monday, the fifth of June. A Pinkerton man from Boston was hired by one of Lizzie's attorneys but he was unable to discover any evidence we could use in her favor. Perhaps you would be more successful. I have spoken to Miss Borden and she wishes to retain your services. Your fee would not be a problem.

Please come! My wife, Marianna, and I would be honored to have you as our house guest for the duration of the trial or longer if you wish to remain.

Sincerely,
Charles Holmes

May 29, 1893 Monday

Dear Charles,

The case is not devoid of interest. It has many fascinating ramifications. Within the next day or two, I shall visit the local newspaper office and learn as much as I can concerning the background of the crime. Only then can I conduct a proper investigation of my own. Please inform Miss Borden I accept. Could you meet my train on 4, June at 1 P.M.?

Cordially,
Sherlock Holmes

May 31, 1893 Wednesday

On this date, Bertha Manchester was slain on a small dairy farm on the outskirts of Fall River. Her father found the body of his twenty-two-year-old daughter next to the kitchen stove. The back of her skull had been crushed by twenty-three distinct and separate wounds. The weapon of choice had been an axe. The *Boston Globe* headlined: "Many Points of Resemblance Found Between Borden and Manchester Murders. More than one citizen of Fall River has been heard advocating the release of Lizzie Borden based on these latest developments."

June 3, 1893 Saturday

All of the rumors and speculation were put to rest when the police announced Jose Correia had been arrested for the murder of Bertha Manchester. Correia, a twenty-two-year-old farm worker, was fired by Bertha Manchester for sleeping on the job. There could have been no connection between the Borden and Manchester murders. Jose Correia had arrived in Massachusetts from the Azores in April, 1893, a full eight months after Abby and Andrew Borden were slain.

The timeliness of the Manchester murder played an important part in the eventual acquittal of Lizzie Borden. The jury had been impaneled and, although they were aware of the murder of Bertha Manchester, they had no knowledge of the apprehension of Jose Correia until the end of the Borden trial.

The locomotive whistled and puffed steam as it slowly came to a halt in the Fall River station. Sherlock Holmes stepped down from the coach and strode towards the carriage area where he was greeted by Charles and his wife.

"Thank you for coming, Sherlock," said Marianna. "Charles and I are deeply appreciative."

Sherlock smiled, shook hands with his cousin and lightly kissed Marianna on her cheek as he climbed aboard.

"I only hope, my dear, I can be of some assistance. From what I have read of the case, your friend is in very serious trouble."

"I have known Lizzie Borden since her childhood," said Marianna with fervor. "She went to school with my daughters. Lizzie attends the Central Congregational Church and is active in the various church enterprises. She is also a member of the Christian Endeavor Society and a member of the Board at the Hospital of Good Samaritan. I knew her stepmother intimately and I have often seen Miss Lizzie with her at church. Believe me when I say Lizzie was on very friendly terms with Abby."

Sherlock smiled as he took Marianna's hand in his.

"One thing is certainly in her favor. Miss Borden has at least two champions she can rely upon for comfort and support. Rest assured, Marianna, I shall do all I can to unravel this matter."

(Continued on next page.)



(Continued from previous page.)

He paused, "I understand you were at the house on the day of the murder? Pray tell me about it."

"Yes. I arrived at the Borden house at one o'clock in the afternoon and went to Miss Lizzie's room. I was in the room when the officers knocked upon the door. When they asked questions, Lizzie said, 'Please be brief, for I am very weary.' She told them she had been in the barn looking for something to fasten the screens. When the officers asked to search her room, Lizzie said, 'Search.' She made no objection whatever."

Holmes had listened patiently. He turned and addressed his cousin.

"These are dark waters, Charles, I'm very much concerned about a certain report I read in the press; the Fall River Globe, I believe it was. They related Miss Borden's alleged admission of guilt to her sister, Emma. If the judge permits this conversation to come out at the trial, it is bound to have a telling effect upon the jury. You're no doubt familiar with the circumstances surrounding the incident?"

"I am indeed, Sherlock, and I can tell you this. I have spoken to Emma and Lizzie and I have their assurance this conversation never took place. It wouldn't surprise me if it turned out that reporter fellow, Porter, trumped up the whole thing just to get a story."

Holmes wrinkled his brow. "Curious, very curious. What does Mrs. Reagan say?"

"It is my belief she was bribed by Porter to testify she heard such a conversation. Police matrons aren't paid too handsomely, you know. Reverend Buck and I were incensed when we read Porter's account in the paper. After receiving Lizzie's assurance that it was all a pack of lies, we presented a statement to Mrs. Reagan for her signature. It was an affidavit to the effect that the conversation reported in the papers never took place. She agreed to sign the document, but was prevented from doing so by Marshall Hilliard. He ordered her not to."

The carriage had pulled up to 67 Pine Street, a large, well-kept residence befitting the stature of the prominent Fall River publisher and banker.

"I've had our housekeeper, Matilda, prepare a little repast," said Marianna as she stepped down. "You must be famished after your long journey." She looked at the famous detective imploringly, "Can you help our poor Lizzie, Sherlock? Do you have a theory? It all seems so hopeless."

"It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has sufficient data, Madam. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories instead of theories to suit facts. For example, beyond the inescapable facts that you have a frisky gray kitten, are left-handed, and have written one or more letters earlier this morning, there is very little I can tell you about yourself."

Charles chuckled.

"I warned Marianna of your amazing deductive skills, but I didn't think she would get such an early demonstration!"

Marianna's eyes sparkled.

"You're right, of course, Sherlock, but how could you possibly know such things?"

"It's really quite simple," said Holmes. "You have four small scratches on the back of your right hand. They are too close together to belong to a cat or a small dog. I assume you do not keep any wild animals on the premises, therefore, I deduce they

must be the scratches of a kitten. There is a small tuft of gray hair caught on one of the buttons of your jacket. Since your hair is red and your husband is a brunette, would it not be reasonable to assume they are the hairs of the kitten? The two ink spots on the back of your left hand indicate you are left-handed and were using a pen. The inference you were writing a letter, therefore, is quite obvious."

She laughed. "Right on all counts! But how did you know I wrote the letter this morning, and not last night?"

"If you had acquired that ink stain last night," said Sherlock Holmes, "I'm certain a woman of your tidy habits would have washed it off this morning upon arising."

Marianna clapped her hands with glee. "Wonderful. Truly wonderful, Sherlock!" she said.

"Not really, dear lady," sighed Holmes. "It's all rather elementary." He descended from the carriage and strolled down the gravelled pathway to the house.

"If time permits, I should like to investigate the scene of the crime. Is there anyone at the Borden house today?"

"Emma should be there," said Marianna.

"Good. After questioning her I wish to make a complete diagram of the premises."

"I took the liberty of placing a copy of the testimony for the inquest and preliminary hearing on the desk in your room," said his cousin.

"That should be most helpful," replied Sherlock Holmes. "I shall, of course, be staying with you for the duration of the trial." His eyes danced, "I have a feeling, Charles, that this may prove to be one of my most instructive cases."

(Continued next issue.)

PRINCESS MAPLECROFT



OF COURSE WE ARE STILL FRIENDS, ALICE. BUT LET'S KEEP OUR CONVERSATIONS TO THE WEATHER, SEWING AND YOUR BOOKKEEPING, SHALL WE? IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST YOU, BUT THE WORD "TATTLE TALE" KEEPS RUNNING THROUGH MY MIND.

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Ref: LIZBITS - LIZZIE BORDEN QUARTERLY - July, 1996

(Editor's note: The July, 1996 LizBits column had references to the book Mr. Arnold R. Brown wrote about the Borden case. Mr. Brown took the time to answer the implied questions. Although it is not the policy of the "Lizzie Borden Quarterly" to publish written exchanges that tend to cause divisive and/or confrontational responses, we accorded Mr. Brown space to answer the questions since his work was published and is available to all.

Mr. Brown also forwarded a dissertation about Hiram C. Harrington's home address buttressed by a reproduction of a "Daily Globe" article dated August 6, 1892. Unfortunately, due to space limitations, we were unable to include it in the current issue. The article is interesting to Borden researchers and will be considered for a subsequent release.)

From the day of its publication, my book, *LIZZIE BORDEN, The Legend, the Truth, the Final Chapter* has faced criticism. My defense enjoys an overwhelming success ratio. Let me test your mettle.

In the July *Quarterly* five items were questioned.

- 1) Abby's (some insist on Abbie) Wednesday morning's visit to Dr. Bowen.

My source for this "juicy bit" was included in a family collection of private papers salvaged from the estate of Dr. Seabury Bowen. These were shown to me during the research phase of the book's conception. In these, Dr. Bowen stated that Abby vomited. Dr. Bowen's words at the inquest were:

"At that time she had a sort of eructation of vomiting, slightly. I was afraid she was going to vomit there, I rather got ready for her." (From the Stenographer's Minutes: "Inquest upon the deaths of Andrew J. Borden and Abby D. Borden," page 116.)

At the Inquest Dr. Bowen did not volunteer graphic details beyond "eructation of vomiting, slightly." (The transcript of the Inquest testimony was published by the *Fall River Historical Society* and made available to the public more than two years after my book's publication.)

Later, at the Preliminary Hearing (transcript page 407), he softened this a step further. He testified,

"At the time, during the time, she very nearly vomited, so much so, that I was getting something ready for her. Whether she did in her handkerchief (sic), or not, I could not say ..."

In testimony he testified she may have vomited. In the reference material shown to me early on he was far more graphic. She vomited and he praised Heaven for his preparation.

- 2) The reference to page 19 in my book:

On page 19, Mary Eagan is introduced who, admittedly, controlled no Fall River banks whatsoever. On page 50, I stated that Andrew "owned one of Fall River's banks and had four fingers and at least one foot in three others." That is different from what is claimed I wrote on page 19.

- 3) The reference to page 174:

Yes, Dr. Bowen DID spend the remainder of his life as a well-to-do gentleman of leisure. I do not understand the point of the reference.

- 4) The reference to page 41:

My disclaimer was omitted from the reference, "... as far as can be determined." And, I cannot find where on page 112 I made ANY reference to Emma's visits away from home other than what I outlined as her only visit. However, on page 113, I did quote a newspaper account that said,

"She will be required to tell about her prolonged visit [Note the singular form] to friends in Dartmouth and Fairhaven ..."

The *newspaper's* reference here is to Emma's ONE AND ONLY known stay away from home, as outlined on Page 41. During this ONLY visit, her father and her stepmother were murdered. A thinking person would label that singular happening as an amazing coincidence, if not something far more sinister.

- 5) Hiram C. Harrington's residence:

Allow me to quote my source (copy upon request):

"Hiram C. Harrington died on January 30, 1907 in his home at 266 Franklin Street, age 77 years, 11 months and 4 days. It was his blacksmith shop that was on Fourth Street, at number 30. In 1891 and 1892 he lived at 12 Turner Street, moved to 54 Franklin Street in 1893." [Underlining mine. Here is yet another astonishing coincidence!] "In 1896 all numbers in Fall River were changed but I believe he was at the same locations but the shop was number 76 Fourth and his home was 266 Franklin Street."

The above information came to me on *Fall River Historical Society* stationery over the signature of Mrs. Florence Brigham. I did not question her information.

For the record, Harrington's new home on Franklin Street abutted THE HILL on the north which made it a far better location than his Turner Street house. There, just feet away, his neighbor to the west was Fall River's main railroad station and a third-class commercial section of North Main Street on the east. Some might find it questionable that, in the very year when Miss Lizzie's fate had been signed and sealed in her favor, Uncle Harrington could suddenly afford a much finer home in a much finer neighborhood. I wonder what his silence might have cost her?

There was an error that was overlooked and not corrected in any of the book's first four printings. On page 126, "Patty" should be "Paddy."

I do have logical explanations for each and every claim apropos to the case. I welcome every opportunity to defend the book.

Best personal regards,

Arnold R. Brown

(Continued from Page 1.)

George Sewell Brigham would play a minor role in the Borden hatchet-murder. He was questioned as to any knowledge of insanity in the Morse family. (Mr. Andrew Borden's first wife was Sarah Morse.)

Mary Ella and George Brigham's son Richard was born on January 7, 1895. Mrs. Brigham from time-to-time would take her young son to *Maplecroft* where Miss Lizbeth Borden would feed him her delicious homemade cookies. As a young man, when Richard went to the Highland School, a teacher there always had the students put the weather on the board. Richard became very interested in weather. Be that as it may, his father told him that *he* always made a good living auditing the mills. "You're not going to go to college", he said. "You're going to go to Bryant Stratton up in Boston and learn to do the same." He did. Unfortunately, the mills later went out of business. Perhaps he should have become a weatherman after all.

THE COOK SIDE

Reverend Joseph B. Clark was a minister preaching the gospel at Martha's Vineyard. Mrs. Benjamin Cook, Sr., was a good Methodist and attended his camp meetings. Their offspring, Hattie May Clark and Benjamin Cook, Jr., met at Martha's Vineyard, fell in love, and were married on December 8, 1897.

"When Mother and Father married, they went to live with Grandmother Cook (Mrs. Benjamin Cook, Sr.) at 257 French Street, very close to Lizzie Borden at 306 French Street, diagonally across Belmont Street and the next house." Florence Cook was born during the final moments of the 19th century, December 31, 1899 around 10:00 P.M. "In those days," Florence recalled, "you lived with your in-laws after getting married. I can remember people saying 'Lizzie Borden's going out for a ride.' We lived on the second floor and, looking out the window, I remember seeing a beautiful horse-drawn carriage going by on Sunday afternoons with a coachman, and Lizzie dressed all in black. Who Lizzie Borden was had no impression on me at that time."

"My sister Marjorie was born in 1902, and in 1904 Eleanor was due, so we thought it was time for us to leave and we moved to 303 High Street, right behind the High School."

The young Florence was enrolled in the Maple Street Grade School (the Westall School is now at this location.). It was torn down and in second grade she had to go to the old June Street School. She graduated from the Durfee High School.

THE CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

It is doubtful that Lizzie ever taught Sunday School at the Central Church. Instead, it was probably at the Mission School on Pleasant Street. Apparently Lizzie was a peculiar child, quiet and introverted. Some people in the church attempted to get her out of herself by enlisting her in the *Fruit and Flower Society*, taking food and flowers to the sick.

Both the Brighams and Cooks went to Central Congregational Church. Florence always noticed young Richard Brigham in church. As a younger girl, she looked up to him.

Mary Brigham, Richard's mother, never had any problem in getting to her feet and speaking. (*Editor's note: Mother Brigham's testimony on page 16 certainly validates this statement.*) She was always a friend of Emma's. Probably either the Reverend Jubb or Buck asked her to testify as a witness for Lizzie Borden.

FLORENCE GOES TO COLLEGE AND MEETS HER FATE

"I went away to school at Mount Holyoke and majored in German and romance languages. Richard Brigham had gone away to World War I. After he came back, I came home from College one weekend and went to a church supper. Richard was pouring and saw that I had seven cups of

coffee that night. We were engaged to be married in 1919."

"We had a family custom that was never a written statement, never was anything except one of those things that grows up in families. My Mother's half sister, Aunt Marjorie Clark, did not marry until she had worked at least one year to show her appreciation for a college education. I graduated in 1921. We girls all said we would honor the family tradition and not marry until we had worked a year. I worked at the 5¢ Saving Bank here and taught German as a substitute teacher at the Durfee High School, but had trouble maintaining order."

Mother Brigham wanted Florence and Richard to marry on her anniversary, October 13, however, the newly-weds-to-be did not wish to risk a Friday 13 wedding!

"Dick and I were married October 14, 1922 at home, where I live today. My two daughters, Constance and Barbara, were also married here."

Now, here is one of those amazing coincidences. The young couple's first child, Constance, was born on August 4, 1923, exactly 31 years after that fateful day on Second Street!



Mrs. Florence Cook Brigham, today

Photograph reproduced courtesy of Mrs. Florence Cook Brigham.

The 1929 Stock Market plunge caused personal calamity for the Brighams. Just before their Barbara was born, Mrs. Brigham went to Boston on one of her regular shopping trips. Upon arriving home, Richard told her she would have to return all the purchases. "I lost all my money today," he said. "Dick," she said, "I spend about every afternoon doing volunteer work for the Junior League and I ought to be helping you."

A friend, Mrs. Ballard, was selling clothes for boys. "I asked her if she knew any firm that would let me sell clothes for girls. We found a nice firm out in Davenport, Iowa and I went into selling clothes for girls. I hated it because everybody was as bad off as I was and every weekend I had to call up and make appointments and I knew perfectly well all of these people were just doing it to help me out. I felt guilty. I didn't like it a bit! But I did it and got along for a while."

"One day I was sitting out here on the step when my children's doctor, Dr. King, asked me if I wanted to run the Christmas Seal sale. 'I don't know anything about that,' I said. 'Go down and see Mrs. Hallahan,' he said. 'She's had it for ten years and wants to get rid of it. Go down and see if you want to do it.' So I went down and thought I'll try it! I followed everything that the directions from National said and we made enough money so they asked me to stay afterwards. I continued to work there mornings."

"The Second World War came along and one day the Treasurer of the Luther Mill, Mr. M. Richard Brown who lived across the street from me, said, 'I hear you work only part time Florence. How would you like to come into the mills and work payrolls for us?' 'But I don't know anything about making payrolls!' 'You can read a chart can't you?' 'Well, I hope so,' I said. So I worked there at the Luther Mill in the afternoons the same time I worked at the Tuberculosis Society in the mornings. I was able to buy a bond every week, imagine that! The Luther Mill closed but I continued to work at the Christmas Seals until I was required to retire at age 67 in 1966."

ENTER THE FALL RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

After retirement, additional income was needed to balance the books. Once again it was the Browns from across the street who provided the bridge to all those interested in the Lizzie Borden saga. Mrs. Brown suggested that Florence go to work for Mrs. Ellis Gifford who was the second Curator at the *Fall River Historical Society*. Florence went and was hired to do inventories. The year was 1967. Mrs. Gifford became ill and passed away at the time of the 1976 United States Bicentennial. Florence was asked to stay on and was shortly elevated to the

post of Curator. Her 23-year stay there represents the period when many Borden enthusiasts became acquainted with this lovely lady and shared her distilled wisdom not only surrounding the Borden hatchet-murders, but with all Fall River things Victorian.

A BRIDGE TO THE PRESENT

"A young 14-year-old boy began coming to the Historical Society bringing all this amazing historical material. Mrs. Gifford and I wondered where he was getting it all. Where is it coming from? Well, I found out he lived down here on Lindsey Street just next to the street they were tearing down to build a highway. So all of these houses were being torn down and he was going through all the debris, finding all this material and bringing it in to us." This young lad's name was Michael Martins.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Brigham
Photograph reproduced courtesy of Mrs. Florence Cook Brigham.

"He was still going to parochial school at this time. Then he went to Durfee High School and decided he wanted to be a cook. He went to the cooking school up there. The teachers knew he was very smart and pushed him along and he was able to get out by 11:30 every day if his classes were finished and come down here and work at the Historical Society. We put him on payroll at that time. He graduated and was accepted at the big school on the

Hudson River that trains chefs. So I thought he was going to leave. 'No, I want to work here,' he said. 'Are they going to keep your application?' 'Yes, they say they will keep it.' And then other terms would come along and they would still keep it open. All of a sudden one day he said, 'They won't keep it any longer.' 'Well Michael,' I said, 'you're young and I won't influence your decision in any way, it's your decision. Just tell me in time so I can replace you.' So time was getting short and I said 'Michael, you have to tell me.' 'I want to stay here,' he said."

A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

"So I began calling him my assistant. Well, you should have seen it! At that time we had a lot of old people on the Board of Directors. When I called him my assistant one day, you should have seen the shoulders go up! 'Well Mrs. Brigham, he can't be your assistant. He never could take over if anything happened to you!' Well, I thought, if I can stay around here until he is 25 they will learn how smart he is. I didn't have to wait until he was 25. It wasn't any time at all until they woke up and found out how smart he was. When I left in 1991 he became the Curator. He is doing a very good job."

(Continued on next page.)

FLORENCE TALKS ABOUT THE BORDEN CASE

"I wish I knew what happened. My mother-in-law was a friend of Emma's. Well, that rift between Emma and Lizzie must have been very deep. It was probably over those theater people. My mother-in-law was very old-fashioned. She would have stayed with Emma rather than Lizzie for that reason. My mother-in-law would never say anything. 'She was tried and she was acquitted and we don't know any more than that about it,' she'd say. I have my mother-in-law's diary. Unfortunately, she didn't start it until 1902. She does tell about entertaining Emma for lunch one day. And she remembers her staying at the (Reverend) Buck's and she came to lunch and had a 'nice talk' that afternoon. I thought I'd like to know what they talked about! And almost the next day Mother Brigham wrote, 'Went over to the Hood's. She had a luncheon for Emma Borden and we had a nice afternoon.' I wonder what they talked about that afternoon, too. The Hoods lived down the street on French Street at that time. Mother Brigham never mentioned Emma again in her diary. Yet, there is a postcard on display at the Historical Society that Emma sent to my mother-in-law while traveling."

"I'm still concerned about that uncle sitting out in the back yard eating pears that day with all of that going on in the house where he was a house guest. That doesn't seem right to me. And when he could tell the number on the conductor's cap, that doesn't sound right to me. Nobody's got him out of the way but I haven't any theories one way or the other. Who knows? I haven't any theories one way or the other."



Mrs. Mary Ella Sheen Brigham and son Richard
Photograph reproduced courtesy of Mrs. Florence Cook Brigham.

LEAVING A LEGEND BEHIND

As we left Mrs. Brigham and her lovely home, it seemed we took a giant step from the brought-alive past to a garish present. I am sure many others have felt as we did. It seemed we were taking a piece of Fall River history with us, and leaving behind one who would grace our memory forever. We look forward to a 1999 *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* when we can interview her once again, this time from a perspective of one who has spanned three centuries and remains just as fresh and mysterious as the May sun and springtime love. Until then

PRELIMINARY TRIAL TESTIMONY OF MARY ELLA SHEEN BRIGHAM

- Q. (Mr. Jennings) What is your name?
A. Mary E. Brigham.
- Q. Are you familiar with the Borden house?
A. Yes Sir.
- Q. A friend of Lizzie's?
A. Yes Sir.
- Q. And have you been there considerable during the last two or three weeks?
A. A great deal.
- Q. Do you know the way in which this front door was fastened at or about the time of the murder? I do not mean at the time of the murder, but in what way the door was fastened.
A. Do you mean in what ways the door could be fastened?
Q. Yes.
A. It had an ordinary spring lock, a bolt, and also you could turn the key to lock the door.
- Q. Now suppose the bolt and the key lock are both thrown back so that there is nothing but the spring lock to fasten it; now does that spring lock have any catch or anything that pre-vents its being sprung when the door is set to?
A. No Sir.
- Q. You know what I mean, that some spring locks have a little thing that you can push in that holds the bolt back; is there something of that kind on this spring lock?
A. Nothing.
- Q. So if the door is shut at any time, the spring lock, if it works properly, should fasten the door, should it?
A. Yes Sir.
- Q. (Mr. Knowlton) Do you claim there is any running water up stairs?
A. No.
- Q. Did you make an experiment this noon, Mrs. Brigham, to see if you could see a person lying flat upon the floor between the bed and the bureau, while you were standing on the upper entry floor?
A. Yes Sir.
- Q. Did you stand there yourself?
A. I did.

- Q. Did you have anybody lie down between the bureau and the bed?
- A. I did.
- Q. Who was it?
- A. Mr. Morse.
- Q. Could you see any portion of his person while he was lying there?
- A. Not any.
- Q. Do you know about this clothes room that opens out of the front hall?
- A. Yes Sir.
- Q. Is it a large room, a large clothes room?
- A. I heard a description given of it, or its dimensions given during this hearing, that I thought was about so. I should call it five feet by eight.



As we left Mrs. Brigham and her lovely home,
it seemed we took a giant step from the brought-alive past to a garish present.

Photograph reproduced courtesy of Jeannine H. Bertolet.

- Q. Just what was given this morning, or very nearly?
- A. Yes Sir.
- Q. Do you know whether it is lighted in there so when you go in there, you can see perfectly well? What things are hanging up there?
- A. I never had any trouble.
- Q. You have been in there?
- A. A great many times.
- Q. Do you recollect how the clothes hung there, whether there is a row of hooks along the wall, and then another row coming out further from the wall, which is screwed into the bottom of the shelf?
- A. Yes Sir.
- Q. So the dresses there hang separate and apart from each other?
- A. Yes Sir.

*Transcribed from the Preliminary Trial Stenographer's Minutes.
August 22, 1892 through August 27, 1892.
Annie M. White, Stenographer
New Bedford, Massachusetts*

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Mrs. Florence Cook Brigham continues to maintain a work schedule. Her chief current charitable interest is the restoration of The Central Congregational Church, Lizzie's church, and hers. It is an imposing, magnificent edifice sprawling along an entire city block on Rock Street in Fall River. It represents an example of architecture that, regrettably, we shall never see again and is quickly disappearing from the American scene.

The Church proper and the old Sunday School are separated by an archway that leads into the parking lot. Today, the Sunday School building has a serviceable stage and is used for many community events, including Lizzie Borden related activities.

Upon entering the Church, you are immediately overcome by an aura that seems to bring with it an awareness of the Majesty of God as He was presented more than a century ago. Even though the pews have been removed, the location of the Lizzie Borden pew has been identified and marked.

If any of our readers wish to assist Florence in her charitable endeavor, S.A.V.E.'s telephone number is (508) 672-3332. Donations may be mailed to :

Save, Inc.
PO Box 3526
Fall River, MA 02722-3526

Please make all checks payable to "Save, Inc." All contributions are tax deductible.

THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC BORDEN

(Continued from Page 4.)

Gross selected two of his essays on the Borden case: "Legends of Lizzie" from *More Studies in Murder* and "The End of the Borden Case" from *Five Murders*. Also included are Pearson's delightful pieces "What Makes a Good Murder?" "Rules for Murderesses" and "Accomplished Female Liars." While Lizzie appeared in none of these three writings, they let you see how Pearson felt about the subject of crime and murder in general.

Also not to be missed was editor Gross's first-rate commentary on Pearson and Radin. Here the author defended Pearson's methodology and arguments from Radin's criticism. Gross felt that both writers distorted the facts to fit their theories. However, he thought that Pearson's interpretation was more believable. Gross's own theory was that Lizzie was guilty, but she had the help of Bridget. The book ended with a letter from Mrs. Pearson, defending her late husband and his work.

That's all for now. Get reading and I'll see you in the next issue.

THOUSANDS OF SOLUTIONS TO THE BORDEN MYSTERY LOST FOREVER

by William L. Masterton

(Editor's note: We are proud to have Mr. Masterton join the ranks of LBQ contributors. I first became aware of him at the 1992 Bristol Community College Lizzie Borden Conference. His presentation "The Borden Case: Myths or Facts," was the first time the "Hottest Day Of The Year" conundrum was questioned. It is my understanding we now have a definitive answer to this question More on this later.)

Lisa Zawadzki, in her annotated bibliography of the Borden murders¹, includes the category, "Works Known But Not Found". Among these is an article by Sidney Sutherland entitled, *The Mystery of the Puritan Girl*, supposedly published in Liberty magazine, Vol. 1, No. 6, 1927. As Zawadzki points out, this reference, first cited by Sullivan², is clearly wrong; Liberty magazine was first published in 1924, not 1927.

In an effort to find this missing piece of Bordeniana, I searched microfilm reels of Liberty, assuming a single error in the reference (e.g., Volume 1, 1924; Volume 4, 1927, - -). This proved fruitless; indeed, Sutherland's article did not appear in any issue of the magazine between 1924 and 1927. However, through perseverance and blind luck, I eventually found it in the March 2, 1929 issue of Liberty (Vol. 6, No. 8, 1929). Unfortunately, locating this lost reference brings us no closer to solving the Borden mystery. Sutherland's 7-page summary of the case is a pedestrian account that sheds no light on the murders. It contains several annoying minor errors, e.g., referring to the day of the murders as a "torrid August morning". My guess is that Sutherland was paid by the word.

The Mystery of the Puritan Girl was one of ten articles describing unsolved murders, all written by Sidney Sutherland, which appeared in Liberty magazine in 1929. Readers were invited to submit solutions to each mystery, competing for prize money totaling \$10,000. First prize for the Borden mystery was awarded to one R.L. Kerby of New York City.

According to the editors of Liberty, more than 60,000 entries were received in this contest. Probably five to ten thousand dealt with the Borden case. Unfortunately, it appears that none of these were ever published, not even R.L. Kerby's. Since Liberty magazine expired in 1950, this treasure trove is presumably lost forever. In a way, that's a pity. One wonders whether anyone accused Lizzie's illegitimate brother, to mention one recent theory. Did anyone suggest incest as Lizzie's motive? One thing is virtually certain; at least one of the thousands of solutions must have been the true one, even if it didn't win a prize.

The ten articles in this series appeared word-for-word in a book published in 1929 entitled, *Ten Real Murder Mysteries Never Solved*. The copyright holders were Liberty magazine and Sidney Sutherland. It's impossible to tell which appeared first, the book or the magazine articles. Curiously, neither publication makes any reference to the other.

¹ *Proceedings of the Lizzie Borden Conference*, edited by Jules Ryckebusch, Bristol Community College, 1993, pp 311-356.

² Robert Sullivan, *Goodbye Lizzie Borden*, Stephen Greene Press, 1974, p. 240.

Echoes of Lizzie In: "HUSH ... HUSH, SWEET CHARLOTTE"

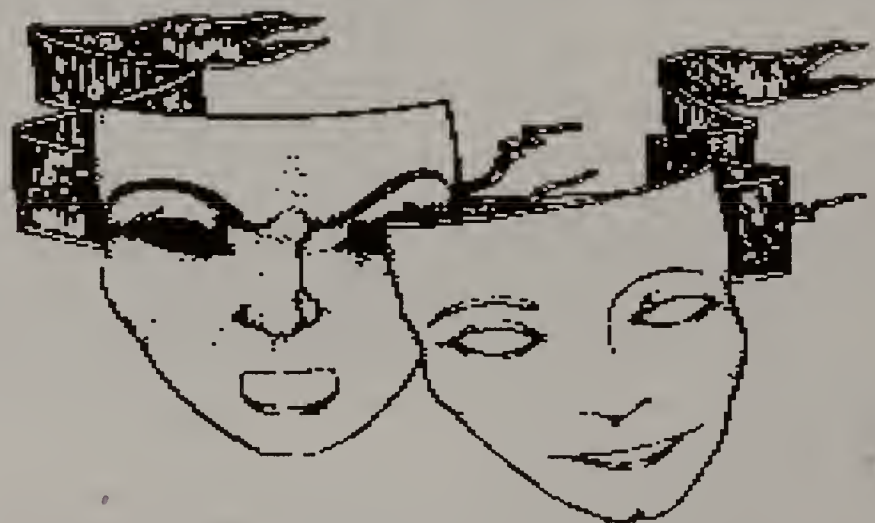
by Denise Noe

(Editor's note: We welcome back the oft-published Denise Noe to our pages. In the April, 1996 LBQ she reviewed the serialized "An Armchair Solution to the Borden Murders" by Fritz Adilz. Now she brings to light previously unpublished similarities to the 1965 20th Century-Fox film "Hush ... Hush Sweet Charlotte" and the Borden Case. If any reader would like to view the film, it will be screened complete and without commercial interruption by American Movie Classics (AMC) on October 31 at 6:15 P.M.)

I just saw *Hush ... Hush, Sweet Charlotte* again. I was struck by the similarities between the film's story and the Lizzie Borden case.

1. The wealthy family.
2. The dominance of the patriarchal father.
3. The manner of killing.
4. General belief that the suspected was guilty. (Charlotte is never charged)
5. Continuing mystery because of the lack of legal termination.
6. Headless corpses (the Bordens decapitated by coroner; the victim in 'Charlotte' decapitated by killer).
7. Hatchet never found (B); head and hand never found (C).
8. 'Hand'leless hatchet (B); 'hand'less corpse (C).
9. Children's macabre rhyme. In 'Charlotte', it goes something like this:

*Chop, chop, sweet Charlotte
Chop up your married man
Chop off his head and hand.*



In 'Charlotte' small children test each other's courage by seeing if a kid is brave enough to sneak into the home of the notorious, elderly woman; in Frank Spiering's *Lizzie*, Russell Lake recalls that he was 'one of the privileged children who could run through her yard' while many youngsters were frightened of the notorious, elderly Lizbeth Borden. The book also says that Miss Borden sometimes invited children into her home and that some kids were too scared to enter but the 'brave' received hot chocolate.

I don't know whether these parallels were coincidence or consciously intended by 'Charlotte's' makers. Perhaps there is a *Lizzie Borden Quarterly* reader who could enlighten us.

IN DEFENSE OF NANCE O'NEIL

by Robert A. Flynn

Much has been speculated about Lizzie Borden's sexuality and in particular, an alleged lesbian affair with the famous tragedienne actress, Nance O'Neil. This myth was perpetrated by Spiering, Satterthwaite and escalated by others anxious to fuel on such nonsense.

On the occasion of Lizzie's death in 1927, the media covered the event and this included editorials and numerous articles reviewing the infamous crime.

One of the most interesting articles I recently uncovered was written on June 4, 1927 by Minna Littmann and carried a New York heading. Miss Littmann interviewed Miss O'Neil at her luxurious apartment on 55th Street in New York that she shared with her husband, Alfred Hickman. At the time O'Neil and Hickman were playing the Riverside Theatre in the play, *The Lily*.

Excerpts from Miss Littmann's story are as follows:

"When Miss O'Neil played in Boston in 1904, her personality and emotional power so gripped Miss Borden that she stepped out of the bonds of her habitual reserve and sought the acquaintance of the actress, then the idol of the city for her brilliant playing of *Magda Leah the Forsaken* and other tragedies in her repertoire. They became friends and remained friends, though ONLY IN MEMORY, FOR THEY NEVER MET AGAIN after Miss O'Neil finished her season in the East and went on tour."

"The outstanding recollection the actress mentioned, however, was that Miss Borden seemed utterly lonely. She was obviously always depressed by the shadow of some tragedy, the nature of which Miss O'Neil did not know until some time after their brief friendship began."

"Nance O'Neil received Miss Borden, as she did hundreds of others who sought her, in her dressing room at the Tremont Theatre. Thereafter, they met in each other's homes. Miss Borden was accustomed to come to enjoy plays and concerts and the company of a few friends, among who Miss O'Neil recalled Mrs. Mary A. Livermore and a brilliant woman novelist and her husband, who were not merely friends, but warm companions of Lizzie Borden."

"The Borden Murder Trial had been history for ten years but it was still vivid in public memory and someone else told Miss O'Neil that her new friend whom she knew only as Lizbeth A. Borden was the woman who figured in it."

"I want to make that clear, it did not alter our relations in the

least. Of course, the tragedy itself was never mentioned between us; never was there even so much as an allusion to it. I simply felt a great sympathy for her and a great deal of admiration for the way she carried on. She was always so alone. I'm afraid I am a rather poor correspondent, we were like ships that pass in the night and speak to each other in passing,' Miss O'Neil sadly commented."

"She mentioned that Miss Borden was once a guest for a few days at her country place in Tyngsboro, not far from Lowell. Reports that she had spent some time at the Borden home in Fall River or that she had ever met Emma Borden she characterized as in error. No letters were exchanged in the nearly a quarter of a century which has elapsed since Miss Borden and Miss O'Neil bade each other goodbye."

THE MOST SENSATIONAL HOMICIDE?

(Continued from Page 6.)

Perhaps, in the hopes of finding the missing murder weapon, twenty-five years from now Geraldo Rivera's son will be doing a TV Special about opening a secret room of O'Hare Airport, or an Iowa farmer will recount that he found a suspicious knife in one of his fields shortly after O.J. flew to Chicago.

On the surface the motive for the crimes seems to be different. Only in the rarest of theories has any type of "abuse" been alleged in the Borden case. But a stronger parallel lies in that both Lizzie and O.J. were purportedly about to face an irreversible change in their relationship with the victims. Dennis Binette says "one of the things we know is there was a dispute over finances" in the Borden household. With O.J., it has been rumored that his ex-wife finally told him there was no chance for reconciliation. Under this perspective, the parallel is that the desperate defendants, on the verge of absorbing significant loss of finances for one and emotional loss for the other, were provoked into attacking their victims.

Does the killing of Nicole Simpson and Ronald Goldman have the juice to become the most sensational murder in U.S. history? Experts agree that part of the reason the Borden murders have generated more than two

hundred serious works, from essays and books to ballets and ballads, is because she was perceived as guilty in the mind of the public, but found innocent in a court of law. Since O.J.'s esteemed defense team won his freedom, it is possible that, like Lizzie, interest in the case will continue to "snowball" one hundred years after the bodies have been found. If O.J. had lost the case, he may have been just another hero who fell hard.



Nance O'Neil

Photograph reproduced courtesy of the Fall River Historical Society.



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